

Pressure for 13½ pc mortgages

Mortgage interest rates could fall by as much as 14 per cent next week when building societies' leaders meet. Mr. Clive Thornton, chief general manager of the Abbey National, said yesterday. A cut of only 1 point might not be acceptable to his board he said and the Abbey National might go it alone if the other societies dragged their feet in dropping from the present record 15 per cent.

Vaughan given consumer post

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health since the Government was formed in May, 1979, was appointed Minister for Consumer Affairs in succession to Mrs Sally Oppenheim, who resigned for family reasons. Mr Kenneth Clarke, a parliamentary secretary at the Department of Transport, has been promoted to Minister for Health and Mr Antony Newton is moved up from the Whip's office to the post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Social Security. Two others have been switched as a result of the appointments.

Shakespearean burglary

Raiders who broke into Anne Hathaway's cottage at Stratford-upon-Avon, have stolen "irreplaceable" treasures, many of which have been taken to the United States for sale.

Haig evidence disappears

Scepticism grew over claims by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, about foreign intervention in Central America when a Nicaraguan soldier alleged to have been captured while helping guerrillas in El Salvador could not be found.

Bored Bundestag turns to London

The West German Bundestag is thinking of sending a delegation to Westminster to learn how to live up to parliamentary question time, after only three members attended Wednesday's session in Bonn.

American may replace Thorpe

Miss Janet Johnstone, an American, has been approached to take over the directorship of the British section of Amnesty International in place of Mr Jeremy Thorpe.

Mottram puts Britain ahead

Christopher Mottram gave Britain the lead over Italy in the Davis Cup tennis match by beating Adriano Panatta. The second match between Richard Lewis and Corrado Barazzutti was halted in the first set by rain.

Shortlist for top coal job

Mr Kenneth Griffin, deputy chairman of British Shipbuilders, has been named as a contender on the shortlist of candidates being prepared to succeed Sir Derek Ezra as chairman of the National Coal Board.

Damages award against Ripper

Mrs Irene MacDonald, of Leeds, whose daughter Lynne, aged 16, was murdered by Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was awarded £67,222 damages against him in Leeds High Court.

England's hope

England meet Wales at Twickenham seeking to erase memories of the 1980 international rugby championship match there when Paul Ringer was sent off. Scotland play France in Edinburgh.

Leader page 7
Letters: On community service, from Dr C. H. Neville-Smith, and Mrs Pamela Moore; industrial investment, from Mr Michael Grylls, MP; Poles in internment, from Sir Bernard Leane, MP.
Leading articles: The Budget; Belfast's by-election; tobacco and sport.
Features, page 6
The last ditch attempt to preserve intact the Natural History Museum in South Kensington; Stephen Hastings, MP, on why Sir Ian Gilmour's suggested economic strategy would be a "cynical" treatment of the electorate.
Obituary, page 8
The Rev Dr Norman H. Smith, Mr G. D. Everington, QC.

Home News 2, 3
Overseas 8
Arts 8
Archaeology 8
Science 8
Sports 11
Business 15-19
Chess 11
Court 11
Crossword 14
Events 14
Features 14
Gardening 13

Soviet labour boss falls to Politburo infighting

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 5

The head of the Soviet trade union organization was dismissed today and replaced by a younger man only days before the opening of the Soviet Trade Union Congress. Mr Alexei Shibaev, aged 67, was replaced at a session of the union's council, in a move that reflects deep dissatisfaction in the Kremlin at his lacklustre performance, and also concern, prompted by the Polish crisis, about worker discontent and low morale.

He was replaced by Mr Stepan Shalayev, aged 53, a Minister for the Paper and Pulp Industries, who has a trade union background. Mr Shalayev will now deliver the keynote speech at the congress, which is held once every five years.

The unusual timing coincides with rumours of manoeuvring within the Politburo, prompting speculation about a power struggle behind the scenes. But there seems little direct evidence to connect Mr Shibaev's fall with any attempt to weaken or consolidate the position of President Brezhnev.

For the past year as Solidarity gathered momentum in Poland, the Soviet press has been calling for a more active role from the state-run trade unions. They have been accused of neglecting the interests of Soviet workers, conniving in management abuses, and failing to give a lead in the struggle against labour indiscipline, drunkenness and falling productivity.

Mr Shibaev had no trade union experience when he was appointed to the job in 1976. Unlike his predecessors, he was not a member of the Politburo, made few speeches and played an inconspicuous role.

Soviet trade unions do little more than arrange holidays and fringe benefits for workers, settle minor grievances and transmit the party line to the workforce at mass meetings. They have no power to negotiate wage levels or call strikes.

Three years ago a handful of workers tried to form an "independent" trade union in protest. But the leaders were quickly arrested or confined to mental hospitals. It was only the growth of Solidarity that

Pay protest threat to schools

By Diana Geddes Education Correspondent

Unions representing more than three-quarters of the 450,000 teachers in England and Wales are to take industrial action from next Thursday in an attempt to force employers to agree to six per cent pay claim to arbitration.

The executives of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UTW) agreed yesterday to call on members to withdraw from the middle supervision of pupils and to refuse to take part in staff and parent meetings outside school hours.

The NAS/UTW said that sports and social activities would not be affected. However, the NUT is to ask its members not to participate in any voluntary activities outside school hours.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, which represents two-thirds of all primary school teachers, would be forced to close during the lunch break.

His union's action committee has been summoned to an emergency meeting this week-end to discuss what action heads should take. "I strongly suspect that we shall be advising our members to do nothing to minimize the effectiveness of any teacher action," he said.

His association was as appalled as the NUT and the NAS/UTW by the employers' "contemptible" pay offer of 3.4 per cent, he said. The NUT is to ask its members to refuse to accept a 12 per cent rise from April 1.

Teachers' leaders say that the pay negotiations in the Burnham Committee reached deadlock on Wednesday after the employers had refused to improve their initial 3.4 per cent offer.

However, Mr Allan Lawton, leader of the local authorities' side on the Burnham Committee, said last night that the employers wanted further discussions.

As a further mark of protest, the union has decided to withdraw its invitation to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to address its annual conference at Easter.

Oxford entrants, page 2



Is Ayatollah Khomeini dead?

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 5

Is the Ayatollah Khomeini dead? Or is he so ill that he cannot even be photographed to watch the state of rumours of the past fortnight in Iran and abroad about his state of health?

The question has arisen after the publication in three leading Iranian newspapers of an obviously doctored picture of the Ayatollah with four members of the revolutionary Government and his son.

Iranian journalists in exile argue that if only a doctored photograph of the Ayatollah was available to prove that he was well, something must be wrong.

The picture appeared on February 23 in *Islamic Republic*, the official party

newspaper, on both the front and the back pages, and in *Ettelaat* and *Keshan*, two Tehran evening newspapers.

In the *Ettelaat* version of the picture shown here, which was released by the Ministry of Guidance to attempt to put paid to the rumours about his health, the Ayatollah is shown with a microphone. Otherwise the photographs in the three newspapers are identical.

The poses of the Ayatollah and of the leading members of the Government are the same, but the obtrusive microphone, included either by mistake or by design, caused suspicion among the members of the council of Radio Iran, the free radio of Mr Shapour Bakhshar, the last prime minister of the

imperial regime now living in exile near Paris.

On closer examination of the picture, they detected several other anomalies. The pair of the picture showing the Ayatollah was obviously taken from a different angle from the part which portrays, from left to right, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, the president of the Iranian Islamic Assembly, that is to say 14 months old, and probably designed to mislead public opinion into thinking that he was fully in charge of the affairs of the country.

On February 12, an announcement was made by his office giving only 24 hours notice that he would take two weeks' leave and cancel all his engagements. Such announcements are usually made well

position in the picture, seated in front of the Ayatollah's sofa, and not as protocol would require it, at the side, is further evidence of alteration.

The three newspapers also published on February 23 copies of a firman or decree signed by the Ayatollah, but dated 15 Safar 1401 in the Islamic calendar, that is to say 14 months old, and probably designed to mislead public opinion into thinking that he was fully in charge of the affairs of the country.

On February 12, an announcement was made by his office giving only 24 hours notice that he would take two weeks' leave and cancel all his engagements. Such announcements are usually made well

ahead. This started rumours in Tehran that he was seriously ill which became so persistent that the Government felt compelled to take action.

Ten days later, in response to enquiries by international news agencies, the Ayatollah's office stated that he was well and anxious by the reports of his ill health. The same day, after an explosion in Tehran caused several casualties, to Tehran Radio broadcast a recorded statement allegedly by the Ayatollah to prove that he was alive and well.

This did not mention the explosion or any recent events and confirmed the suspicion of the members of Radio Iran, which monitors all the broad-

Continued on back page, col 1

Setback for Paisley in Belfast poll

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Rev Martin Smyth won the Belfast, South, by-election yesterday for the Official Unionists with a convincing majority over the Democratic Unionist Party, which is led by the Rev Ian Paisley. Mr Paisley suffered a severe blow when the Rev William McCrea, the Democratic Unionist candidate, was pushed into third place behind the non-sectarian Alliance Party.

Mr Smyth's victory is a big boost for his party, reassuring it that it is still a powerful electoral force. Mr Paisley's party's relentless advance had appeared to be unstoppable and a DUP victory would have robbed the Official Unionists, already demoralized by Mr Paisley's apparent inevitability, of their last seat in Belfast.

He has now had the humiliation of being beaten by the Alliance Party and the Official Unionists have demonstrated that they can take him on and win.

That demonstration will restore Mr Smyth's party colleagues' belief in themselves, although it would be unwise for anyone to write off Mr Paisley and his brand of Unionism.

There was uproar and scuffling as the results were announced at Belfast City Hall amid cheers and jeering from rival sets of Official Unionist and Democratic Unionist supporters.

The rivalry between the two parties erupted into violent abuse as soon as Mr Smyth's victory was proclaimed, with both sides saying they had been kicked and punched by the other.

The police moved in to separate the rival supporters.

THE RESULTS

Rev M. Smyth (Off Un) 17,123
D. Cook (Alliance) 11,728
Rev W. McCrea (DUP) 5,818
A. McDonnell (SDLP) 3,839
J. McMichael (Ul. Loy. Dem) 576
B. Caut (United Lab) 303
J. Nairn (One Hom Fam) 137
S. Hall-Raigh (Peace State) 12

Electorate 66,219
Votes cast 43,848
Official Unionist majority 5,397
Turnout 66.21%

General election, 1979: Rev R. Bradford (Off Un), 28,878; B. Glass (Alliance), 17,745; A. McDonnell (SDLP), 3,664; V. Bennett (UPNI), 1,784; J. Duggan (Lab. Indep.), 692; Off Un maj, 17,120.
Electorate, 98,920. Turnout, 68 per cent.

John Woodcock, page 21

'Carlos' threatens French leaders

From Charles Hargrove Paris, March 5

"Carlos", the international terrorist wanted by a number of Western police forces, has sent an ultimatum to the French Government through the French Embassy in The Hague, it was learnt today. He threatens to take action against ministers if two of his "friends" now awaiting trial, are not released within a month.

The two were arrested on February 16 in Paris. They claimed to belong to the "International Revolutionary Organization", and have been charged with murder, false identity and possession of arms and explosives.

One of them, Bruno Breguet, aged 32, a Swiss from Locarno, was arrested in April 1970 at Asiza when attempting to smuggle explosives into Israel for a Palestinian bomb attack. He was sentenced to 15 years



"Carlos": a photograph taken in 1975.

imprisonment but pardoned in 1977. He was since registered as a student of economics in Zurich.

The other is Magdalena Kaupp, aged 34, from Ulm in West Germany, suspected by the German police as belonging to a terrorist organization

and of having connections with the Baader-Meinhof gang.

They were caught by two watchmen who took them for thieves in a car park near the Champs Elysees. They tried to open fire, but their guns jammed, and they were arrested. In their car carrying false number plates police say they found explosives, two small bottles of camping gas, and \$2,000 (£1,100) in notes.

They have refused to give evidence to investigating magistrates.

The ultimatum of "Carlos" the alias of Señor Ildefonso Ramirez Sanchez, a Venezuelan, was half a page long and written in Spanish. It carried in addition to his signature, his thumb-prints.

"You arrested two members of my organization", it read, "who had received no orders to stage an attack on French territory, for we have nothing against the Socialist Government. I give you one month to

release them, otherwise I will personally take on members of the Government."

After the receipt of the letter, on March 1, a special security measures have been taken by the Dutch police to protect the French Ambassador.

The return of "Carlos" to the world stage comes after a relatively quiet year in his turbulent career as a terrorist (A Staff Reporter writes).

He was last reported to be working on behalf of the Syrian Government to overthrow its Iraqi opponents.

His most notorious coup was the kidnapping of 11 Opec ministers in Vienna seven years ago, but he has also been implicated in the Entebbe hijacking of an Israeli airliner. He is wanted in at least 12 countries for a series of murders, kidnappings and hijackings, including the killing of two French agents and an Arab informer in a Paris gun battle in 1975.

Job cuts agreed with 'Times' clerical union

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Times Newspapers and leaders of the company's 670 clerical workers last night reached an agreement on job cuts, which is regarded as crucial if closure of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, which had been threatened by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the proprietor, is to be averted.

The agreement came after Mr Murdoch had announced on arriving back in Britain from New York that the outcome of redundancy negotiations throughout the company should be known by Monday at the latest.

Neither management nor local officials of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsopa) were prepared to reveal details of how many clerical staff will leave the company, but it is understood that it is likely to be less than 180.

That figure compares with about 390 posts, which the company was seeking at the start of the crisis negotiations three weeks ago. The agreed figure was thought to be somewhere between 225 posts, which had been the starting point for last night's talks, and 180, including about 40 vacancies.

The proposals will be put to a meeting of the clerical staff of the two newspapers next

Tuesday for approval. The union's chapel (office branch) committee will meet on Monday to discuss the prospective agreement and are expected to recommend it to their members.

Mr Murdoch had made clear earlier in the negotiations that he considered job cuts among clerical workers vital because it was in the Natsopa areas that the company was most seriously overmanned.

Mr Barry Fitzpatrick, father of *The Sunday Times*, said after last night's talks: "I can't say I am overjoyed by the outcome because we will be losing jobs, but we think we have averted the closure of the papers and we believe that this figure is more realistic in protecting the company's ability to produce newspapers."

Attention will now switch to the machine room of *The Times* which the management believes is the chief remaining hurdle in the negotiations.

Earlier in the day, Mr Murdoch said at Heathrow airport: "I am not confident or certain that the newspapers can be saved. I am hopeful. We have a lot to get through and hopefully we will know the outcome by Monday at the latest."

Continued on page 2, col 5

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PALACE ON WHEELS

Vintage India! All The Way

Former director of Amnesty asked to return

By Michael Horsnell

A move to oust the council of Amnesty International's British section, after the resignation of Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal MP, will be made at the annual meeting later this month.

Although relieved at Mr. Thorpe's decision to resign as director, many of the 18,000 members are angry about the original decision to appoint him. Yesterday an invitation was issued to Miss Janet Johnstone, the American who was acting director before the appointment, to succeed him in the £14,000-a-year post.

Miss Johnstone, aged 36, runner-up on the short list for the job last month after a vote by the council, was re-elected in California by the British section's trustees.

Miss Johnstone, who has the support of the 11 staff, said: "I am flattered by the invitation but I have asked for two or three days to make up my mind. The invitation was as much a surprise to me as was Mr. Thorpe's appointment."

She is a former director of the San Francisco branch of Amnesty, and was taking a master's degree in political

science at the University of California when she was appointed acting director eight months ago.

Miss Johnstone added: "It is an important post and the section now needs to have a thorough look at itself."

The decision to approach her was made after hurried consultations between members of the section's executive committee and the international committee.

The position of M. Roger Briot, chairman of the section, remained in doubt yesterday as the move to oust the 25 members of the council was mounted. Mr. Briot, who supported Mr. Thorpe's appointment throughout, was in Munich on personal business and not available for comment.

Meanwhile the staff expressed regret at the tone of Mr. Thorpe's resignation. He spoke of pettiness and prejudice among his opponents and said that his most vociferous critics were unrepresentative of rank and file members.

It remained uncertain last night whether the move against Mr. Briot and the council would take the form of a motion of no confidence or censure.

Ministers reject state audit

By Anthony Evans
Political Correspondent

Cabinet ministers have decided that it would be "catastrophic" to allow the Comptroller and Auditor General to carry out a full public audit of nationalized industry accounts.

The issue, which is being pressed in a Commons motion signed by 287 MPs of all parties, has been examined by the Cabinet's economic strategy committee and will undoubtedly be discussed again. But it was authoritatively stated this week that ministers would stand firm; they would not allow the Comptroller's staff from the Exchequer and Audit Department into the nationalized industries.

If they did so, it is said with feeling, no management decision could be taken without executives continually looking over their shoulders; it would make good management impossible.

Every decision in Whitehall is taken in the knowledge that Mr. Gordon Downey, the Comptroller, might eventually demand a fully documented explanation years later. While the constraints of accountability are accepted in the Civil Service, such a system would be intolerable in any commercial operation.

Mr. Edward du Cann, senior chairman of the Commons network of select committees, at the week insisted that if the Treasury refused to give way then a Commons debate would be forced and ministers could be voted down on the matter.

The MP, who is also chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee, said that the Comptroller should have the right to follow public money wherever it went.

He was referring particularly to recent complaints about Leyland Vehicles' disposal of its tractor division at Bathgate, Scotland, which is being investigated by the Public Accounts Committee. Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, will be giving evidence in private session to the committee on Monday.

It has also been alleged that British Leyland has raised £75m from the sale of assets over the last two years, lowering their value by as much as a third in the rush to gain extra revenue.

It was also disclosed this week that the Leyland Vehicles sale was considered so insignificant commercially that the matter did not even go before the full BL board.

Anti-hunt body may aid alliance

By Hugh Clayton

The League Against Cruel Sports may switch its support in the next general election campaign from the Labour Party to an anti-hunting group in the Liberal-SDP Alliance.

Mr. Richard Course, executive director of the league, said yesterday: "We are considering very sympathetically giving them some money."

The non-political league, which is one of the largest animal charities, caused controversy in the 1979 campaign by giving £80,000 to the Labour Party. The money was given because the party said in its manifesto that "legislation to end cruelty to animals will include the banning of hare coursing and stag and deer hunting."

Mr. Course said yesterday that Labour defectors to the Social Democrats included many campaigners for animal welfare and opponents of hunting. He would be surprised if the SDP's policy for the next election did not include a commitment to ban hare-coursing and stag-hunting.

This body to which the league, which has more than 18,000 members and expects to receive an income of £300,000 this year, is considering giving its support to a new group called Liberals and Social Democrats against Blood Sports. The league recently had one of its greatest successes when Co-operative Wholesale Society, Britain's largest independent owner of farmland, banned hunting with hounds on all its 30,000 acres.

The ban was decided after months of lobbying by an internal pressure group called Co-operators against Blood Sports which was set up inside the Co-operative movement with financial help from the league.

Mr. Course made clear that for the next election the league was likely to finance the anti-hunting group in the Liberal-SDP Alliance rather than the alliance itself.

He reported that the league had won a settlement out of court in which the North Cornwall Hunt paid £375 to a farming family near Bodmin whose pet cat died when hounds entered the farm-house garden almost six months ago. He said that the hunt had killed the cat and he offered free legal help to anyone who wanted to pursue claims for damages against hunts for the loss of animals.

Dispute over gliders to go to air authority

By Ronald Faux

The dispute between gliders and hang gliders about the air space above Dunstable Downs is to be taken to the Civil Aviation Authority by Bedfordshire County Council.

The council which owns Townerhoe Pastures, on the downs, from which hang gliders launch, has decided not to appeal against a magistrates' decision that a local bylaw under which three hang glider pilots have been summoned was ambiguous and biased in favour of the London Gliding Club.

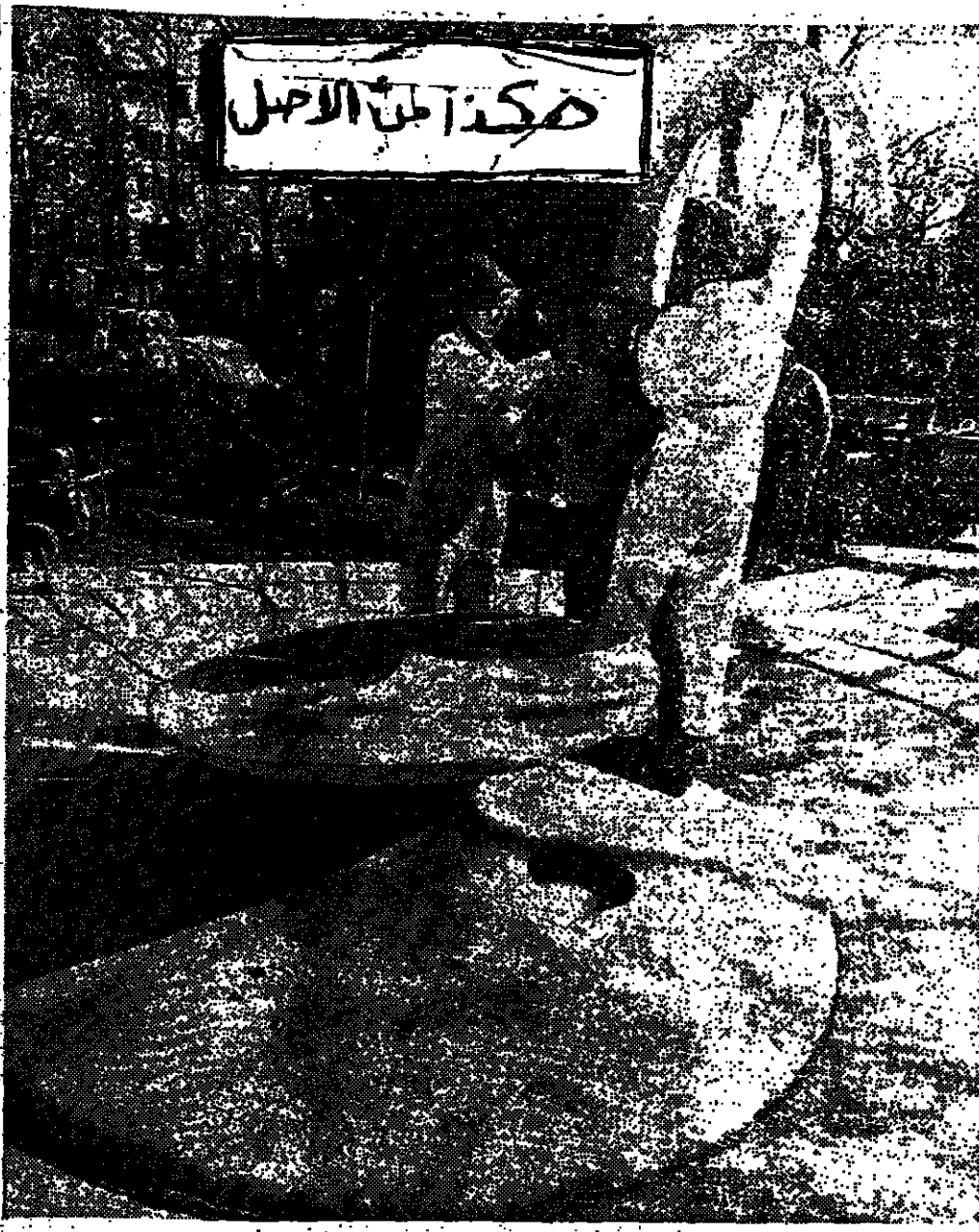
Mr. John Jeffries, chief flying instructor and manager of the club, has complained that having hang gliders taking off and flying close to the airfield used for 50 years by the London Club was most unsafe. "It is as if a flying club had opened up at the end of the main runway

at Luton airport. A fatal collision is more probable than possible," he said.

The council's legal department admitted that once a hang glider was airborne it was no longer the council's responsibility.

The skill of the hang glider pilot and the technology of their aircraft have improved from the days when hang gliding was really a form of aerial tobogganing. They now fly up to five or six thousand feet, competing for the same updraft as the gliders, and there is a real risk of collision. That becomes a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority.

The council is also concerned at the risk to the thousands of people who come at weekends to the Dunstable Downs to watch the flying.



Angela Conner, the sculptor (left), supervising preparations for the dedication today of the Yalta Victims Memorial, constructed by her, in Thurloe Square, London, to the people forcibly repatriated to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia between 1944 and 1947.

Resist staff cuts with strikes, Nalgo urges

By David Walker

The National and Local Government Officers Association (Nalgo) yesterday urged local authority workers who are affected by council attempts to cut expenditure to go on "indefinite and total" strike.

The union's local government group, representing 500,000 staff, met in London and approved a strategy of defending jobs by local strike action. The union expects its branches to take immediate action if any members are dismissed for cost-cutting reasons.

The union "considers that the Government would be forced to reconsider its position if some local authorities were brought to a complete standstill by trade union action," Nalgo's opposition to contracting out to council services, to private firms was reiterated.

But Mr. Michael Blick, chairman of Nalgo's national local government committee, said those plans were not a national blueprint; they affected relatively four areas. Nalgo's branches would decide for themselves how to make the "maximum impact on the authorities that are making the decisions unacceptable to the union."

As he stood up to speak, Mr. Blick, a prominent member of the Social Democratic Party, was hissed by a section of the 1,200 delegates. Nalgo is engaged in a controversial battle over affiliation to the Labour Party.

Later the meeting applauded a reference to the "anti-trade union lunacy of the SDP in Islington" and voted with few dissenters to support the strike of 2,000 Nalgo members employed by that borough. A motion to back-dance strike pay for Islington members was also approved by a wide margin.

Mr. David Burn, representing Islington's Nalgo branch, blamed the SDP-controlled council's "provocative attitude" for the strike.

He said: "The SDP wants to take Nalgo on and they have just been seeking pretexts."

"We have seen the council's plans for its 1982-83 budgets; there is a threat of 500 compulsory redundancies. If we win they will think twice before embarking on cuts of that magnitude."

Mr. Robert Forde, another representative of Islington, denied the action in the borough constituted a political strike against the council. The SDP at national level was embarrassed by Islington council, he said.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Two resign in rating protest

The leader of the Labour-controlled Merseyside County Council, Mr. James Stuart-Cole, resigned yesterday over the fixing of the rate precept for next year. Mr. Jack Gishman, the deputy leader, also resigned, over a move to set council expenditure at £159m, £23m in excess of the top figure laid down by the Government.

Mr. Stuart-Cole, aged 66, said later that he had wanted a more moderate budget. "I did not want to lead my group into the possibility of government surcharges through over-spending, so as a matter of principle I decided to go."

He will remain a council member. A new leader and deputy leader will be chosen by ballot at an emergency meeting of the Labour group tomorrow.

A final decision on the budget will be taken at the county council meeting on Tuesday.

Ban on Bathgate overtime ends

The ban on overtime working imposed by the 2,600 employees at the British Leyland factory at Bathgate in Scotland, where 800 men were made redundant last week and where more redundancies are planned, is to be lifted.

The workforce decided by a two-to-one majority yesterday to accept a shop stewards' recommendation to end the ban and other industrial sanctions, which had lasted for two years. Mr. Christopher Bett, the shop steward vice-convenor, said the agreement would be welcomed by the business community at a time when white morale is low. Mr. Dennis Norman, the Minister of Agriculture, has been the only white minister since Mr. David Smith who was Minister of Trade and Commerce, resigned for health reasons in the middle of last year.

£4.6m grant to Family Fund

The Government is to pay £4.6m this year to the Family Fund, which gives financial help to families with severely handicapped children. The grant will enable the fund to continue giving families grants at the same overall level as last year.

The grant was announced yesterday by Mr. Hugh Ross, Minister for the Disabled, during a visit to the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, which administers the fund.

Ulster sea link restored

The ferry service linking Liverpool and Belfast will begin again at the end of this month, restoring England's only sea link with Ulster five months after P & O closed its loss-making service.

Belfast Car Ferries Ltd will use the Irish Continental Line vessel, St. Columba, for the daily sailing, creating 220 new jobs immediately.

Rail diversion fare cut

British Rail has agreed to cut the fare from Leeds to Glasgow via York and Edinburgh to compensate for the diversion of Nottingham to Glasgow services away from West Yorkshire in May.

France sees jobless as biggest test for Europe

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 5

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, made clear his priorities here today. The real problem facing Europe, he emphasized, was not the size of Britain's budget contribution, but the scale of unemployment in the Community.

"We are not suffering from too much Europe, but because there is not enough Europe," he said. What was needed to solve the unemployment crisis facing the EEC was a vision of a European dimension.

M. Mauroy could spare only a quarter of an hour to meet the press during his two-day visit to Brussels and he spent most of that time emphasizing the need for a concerted effort to cure unemployment.

He spoke of the British budget contribution only when specifically asked about it by a British journalist.

But the whole purpose of his visit was to underline the need for a fresh impetus to the Community to revive plans and to get priorities right. So greatly was his professed idealism that he was able almost to overlook the fact that France had been convicted by the European Court that very day of failing to match the European spirit

in refusing to allow Italian wine to enter France without let or hindrance.

The court ruling, perhaps mischievously timed for release at exactly the moment M. Mauroy was due to arrive in the Commission building, is designed to make it extremely difficult for France to block Italian wine imports at the border.

It provisionally orders the French customs to do away with the bureaucratic procedures which have been exploited over the past year to slow up the free circulation of Italian wine into France and which have led to a series of acrimonious exchanges between the two Governments.

M. Mauroy brushed that judgment aside, suggesting that the difficulties all arose because the Commission so far had failed to respond to a French request that the wine market be reorganized to take account of quality.

Equally, M. Mauroy discounted any idea that in its plans to reconquer the French internal market by aiding ailing industries his Government was being protectionist.

M. Mauroy showed that he was looking to the Commission to be more forth-

coming in making suggestions about how to solve the problems of Europe. "In the view of the French Government," he said, "the Commission should not hesitate about putting forward political proposals. It should not just see itself as a guardian of the treaty."

"What we are looking for is a future with dynamism and a political will. We would propose a revival of Europe."

This was a hidden reference to Britain, although he would not take in any detail the British budget problem. M. Mauroy did clear that the French idea of a Europe looking towards quarter unity was in marked contrast to what he saw as the British idea of a Europe being asked to subsidize British economic failure.

"Even so, we have problems which have to be dealt with," he said when asked about the British problem. "But we cannot bring Europe to a halt."

France was prepared to make proposals to solve the British budget problem, which would involve help for a number of years. But there was no doubt that for him that unemployment, and not Britain, posed the biggest challenge to the Community.

South Africa releases black union leader

From Michael Horsnell, Johannesburg, March 5

South African security forces have released Mr. Thozamile Gqweta, the country's best known black trade union leader, after three months in detention without trial. Two weeks ago he was moved under guard from prison to a psychiatric ward at a Johannesburg hospital.

Mr. Gqweta, who at the time of his transfer to hospital was described by his brother Robert as suffering from amnesia, severe headaches and difficulty in speaking, was still not well. They hoped he would recover on being reunited with his family.

Mr. Gqweta was first released on Wednesday afternoon, but was rearrested the next morning by Ciskei security police at his home in Mdantsane Township. He was freed later the same day. Mdantsane is 10 miles to the north-west of East London, where Mr. Gqweta's union is based, but it is just inside Ciskei, one of four

tribal homelands, or Bantustans, to have accepted "independence" from the South African Government. Mr. Gqweta is president of the South African Allied Workers' Union, which is one of the biggest and most militant black trade unions in the country. It campaigned strongly against Ciskei's "independence", which overnight turned hundreds of thousands of Xhosa-speaking South Africans into Ciskei citizens whether they liked it or not.

Three white victims of the security laws have also been released. They are Mrs. Esther Levitan, a member of Black Sash, an organization of middle-class white housewives opposed to apartheid and works to improve the lot of blacks; Miss Linda Bernhardt, a manager of a popular group, and Mr. Ralph Wortley, director of the careers guidance unit at the University of the Witwatersrand.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, said today that "several dozen people" may have died in the hurricane, which he described as "the worst in the country's history".

A New Zealand Air Force reconnaissance flight reported that the central Ha'apai group's outer islands were worst hit by the 90-knot winds.

Mr. Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, said that food, temporary shelter and water would be the most pressing need for the islands.

Tararua will provide assistance to the outlying, less accessible islands. It is also hoped to send some Andover aircraft and helicopter flights into the Ha'apai group," he said.

The air survey showed that 80 per cent of the buildings in the capital Nuku'alofa had been damaged.

In the northern Vava'u group, 40 per cent of the buildings were damaged, although some islands were hit more severely.

Australian Air Force Hercules transport aircraft have also been flying in emergency supplies.—AFP

□ Nairobi: More than 54,000 people made homeless by three recent cyclones in Madagascar are being accommodated in 218 emergency relief camps near the capital, Antananarivo, officials of the United Nations Children's Fund said at their regional office here.

The full extent of disaster caused by cyclones Benedict, Electra and Frida is now emerging as the floodwaters recede (Charles Harrison writes). Up to 70 per cent of the children under 12, officials estimated, and emergency camps will be needed for months to come.

Italy says spy sub was from Russia

Rome. The submarine spotted in Italian waters off the southern port of Taranto was a Soviet Viktor class vessel and it was not there by accident, Senior Lelio Lagorio, the Italian Defence Minister, said in Parliament yesterday.

Madrid MP investigated for decreeing coup trial

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 5

The military authorities have opened an investigation into remarks by Señor Alfonso Guerra, parliamentary leader of the Socialist Party and vice-chairman of Spain's main opposition force, that the coup coup martial now in its third week was "going to be a farce".

After almost a month, the Supreme Council of Military Justice yesterday ordered a military investigating magistrate to start preliminary proceedings, which could lead to a military trial of Señor Guerra, if Parliament agrees to waive his immunity.

He allegedly made the remarks in an interview with EFE, the state news agency. He is in Italy at the moment, leading a party delegation.

The investigation decision has caused despondency among both government and opposition politicians, who have recently bent over backwards to allow the council to get on with trying

those accused of being involved in the coup plot. Señor Guerra's remarks caused consternation, breaking as they did a self-imposed ban by politicians. If the military decides to seek to try a leading MP, a conflict is threatened between the armed forces and Parliament, sovereignty under the 1978 constitution and the principal victim of the coup bid.

Señor Guerra's remarks were denounced by the Degence Ministry spokesman as "an intolerable interference with military justice", but the lack of any follow-up led to hopes that wiser counsels had prevailed.

The spokesman, an army colonel, subsequently testified in favour of one of the principal figures accused at the court martial.

Until now Parliament has only waived immunity from prosecutions and with marked reluctance, for representatives of the Basque extreme left.



Mr. Dennis Norman: Only white minister.

Israeli hail new era in relations with France

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 5

President Francois Mitterrand left Israel today at the end of an historic visit which was hailed as a success by both sides, despite its complete failure to reconcile wide and longstanding differences over the Palestinian issue.

During an impressive farewell ceremony at Tel Aviv airport, Mr Yitzhak Navon, the Israeli President, paid a brief but glowing tribute to the first French head of state to visit the country since its foundation. He said that Mitterrand had captured the hearts of all Israelis, and turned a hope into a reality by dispersing the clouds over the relationship between the two countries.

Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, was unable to attend the ceremony, after being taken ill during last night's presidential banquet at the King David Hotel. But initial fears that he might have suffered another heart attack were dispelled when he resumed official duties this morning by meeting Mr Claude Cheysson, French Foreign Minister.

A Government statement said that the Prime Minister had suffered from "accumulated fatigue", and added that he would be resuming normal duties in his office on Sunday.

Mr Begin is also suffering from a troublesome hip injury, which has kept him confined to a wheelchair for the past four months. He has already survived two heart attacks and a minor stroke.

Israeli officials described the visit tonight as "opening a new era in Franco-Israeli relations". They pointed out a number of concrete developments in bilateral ties which, it is claimed, have finally removed the anti-Israeli bias of French policy under President Giscard d'Estaing.

Among the agreements reached is the revival of the France-Israeli joint commission, which has been dormant for more than 10 years. It will resume discussions in Paris at the end of next month on cooperation in the fields of finance, culture and technology.

The French also announced today that Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, had accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to Paris, provisionally scheduled for May. But there was no sign that a similar invitation would be extended in the near future to Mr Begin.

Little has yet been said publicly about the possible resumption of arms sales, but Israeli sources claim that a meeting between Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, and his French counterpart will take place in the coming months.

Last night, Mitterrand told the 200-strong press corps that the significance of his visit was that he had succeeded in putting the Palestinian Arab case in Jerusalem. He said that he had wanted to get off his pedestal and believe that the Palestinians deserved a state of their own.

Some foreign observers have been surprised by the equanimity with which many Israeli officials appear to

have received Mitterrand's pro-Palestinian statements in his Knesset speech. The officials acknowledge the basic difference over the question of a Palestinian state, but express delight that the speech appeared to sound the death knell for the EEC's Middle East initiative.

Before leaving for Paris, Mitterrand today visited a kibbutz and the old Crusader port of Acre. He was shown the execution chamber in the former Turkish prison, which was used by the British authorities to hang members of the pre-state Jewish underground convicted of terrorist offences.

□ Cairo: Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian deputy Prime Minister, praised President Mitterrand's speech to the Knesset, saying that it reflected Mr Mitterrand's "work for a global solution to the crisis in the middle East" (AFP reports).

Mr Butros Ghali, the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, had earlier said that the French President's statements were "a factor encouraging Europe to play a role in the process for a global and just peace in the Middle East".

□ Tel Aviv: Israeli soldiers detained 23 illegal Jewish squatters who returned to north Sinai after being evicted yesterday in preparation for the territory's return to Egypt next month. (Reuters reports).

Members of the Stop the Withdrawal from Sinai Movement protested outside the Defence Ministry, and 18 were arrested.

Scepticism as Haig evidence vanishes

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 5

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has a credibility problem. There is growing scepticism on Capitol Hill about his claims that insurgency in El Salvador is being controlled by foreigners, notably by the left-wing Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

Mr Haig's trouble is that either he feels unable to provide information about what is happening in Central America, or when he does give details, his information turns out to be wrong or unconvincing.

Last week he chided the American press for not publishing a photograph which appeared in the French newspaper *Le Figaro*, portraying what were said to be victims of Sandinista oppression. However, the State Department later had to concede that the photograph was false.

Yesterday Mr Haig told the House appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations that for the first time a Nicaraguan military adviser who was helping to run the guerrilla operation had been captured in El Salvador.

However Mr Haig's allegation that the adviser had been captured about outside involvement, seems to have created additional confusion. President Duarte of El Salvador was later reported as saying he had no information about a Nicaraguan adviser, while American news reports from San Salvador said the man Mr Haig may have been alluding to had escaped.

At the daily State Department news conference today an embarrassed spokesman declined to make any comment about what one questioner referred to as the so-called missing prisoner. However he said Mr Haig was sticking by his information which he said was provided by the US embassy in San Salvador, and that the information provided by the Salvadorean authorities.

Mr Clarence Long, the committee's chairman, was not convinced and asked for further information about alleged Nicaraguan activities. He had recently had talks with Mr Daniel Ortega, head of the Sandinista Government, who had assured him his government was not involved in El Salvador and wanted to have good relations with the U.S.

Mr Long said he found it difficult to believe that Central America that American gunboat policy was not making a contribution towards a solution to regional strife. He warned Mr Haig that he would hold up to President Reagan's new Central American aid plan until he received evidence of Nicaraguan subversion.

Mr Haig promised to provide additional evidence today, but the State Department said at this morning's news conference that it was not yet ready.

Mr Haig's charges against Nicaragua have also been disputed by Mr Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan Minister of Agriculture, who is visiting Washington. He said that the Nicaraguan Government wanted to do it did not have the material resources to help in El Salvador.



Gutter arrest: Detective Charles Horsley holding a gun to a man's head in Boston after two people offered to sell him and another officer an unregistered gun. The other suspect surrendered.

Poles jail priest for 'slander' of leaders

Warsaw, March 5. — A military court has sentenced a Roman Catholic priest to three and a half years in prison for slandering Polish leaders in a sermon delivered a week after the imposition of martial law, a Warsaw newspaper reported today.

It was the first reported legal action against a Roman Catholic priest under martial law.

The newspaper, *Stamdar Miodoch*, identified the priest as Rev Boleslaw Jewulski, and said the prosecutor had asked for six years' imprisonment. There was no indication of when the verdict was handed down.

Officials had confirmed that one priest was on trial for slandering General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the party leader, but other details were withheld. There was no comment from the church on the conviction.

The Roman Catholic Church claims the allegiance of 90 per cent of Poland's 36 million people, and has been an outspoken critic of martial law.

Trybuna Ludu the party newspaper, reported that six leaders of solidarity in Szczecin were jailed for up to five years yesterday. The court, which sat in Bygoszcz, 125 miles north-west of here, had found all six guilty of organizing or leading a strike.

Bundestag bore-in seeks a new image

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 5

The West German Bundestag is thinking of sending observers to the House of Commons to find out how to make parliamentary question time more lively.

The Bundestag had to admit this week that its twice-weekly, 90-minute question time could compete for the title of the world's most boring event.

Visitors who have to wait for months for a ticket to sit for an hour in the public gallery often see only a handful of members dozing or reading, while some parliamentary state secretaries on about a bridge project in darkest Bavaria, or regulations on coconut imports.

Members often do not even turn up to read out their own questions, or hear the answers. The questions are printed on the days agenda, anyway, and the replies can be obtained in writing afterwards.

The Bundestag was finally joined into action on Wednesday, after attendance hit an all-time low. Herr Richard Stücklen, the president, opened the session to find that only three of the 519 members had shown up.

The Bundestag council of elders — the president, his deputies, representatives of the three parties and other officials — decided to put an end to this embarrassing state of affairs. The floor leaders will be urged to instil a sense of parliamentary duty into their members.

ATOM PLANT INQUIRY ORDERED

from Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, March 5

A new study to determine how safe the troubled Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant would be in an earthquake has been ordered by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"Hundreds of modifications" may be needed before the plant can begin operating, according to Mr Harold Denton, the Commission's Director of Reactor Regulations. He said yesterday that a new independent study is needed to decide how safe the plant located about half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco, on a bluff overlooking the Pacific, can withstand an earthquake.

In November the commission suspended the plant's test licence after operator, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, said there were design errors in the installation, which cost the equivalent of £1,200m.

Before ordering the fresh study, Denton said that a previous review had found 6 design errors and 91 questionable items which might turn out to be design errors.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Soft landing for second Venus craft

Moscow. A Soviet landing module from the space probe Venera 14 made a soft touchdown on Venus 63 minutes after entering the planet's atmosphere. It was the second such landing in a week.

The module landed east of the area known as Phoebe, after separating from Venera 14. The Venera 14 interplanetary station was launched on November 4 and travelled 180 million miles.

According to Tass, a bore on board the module took samples of the Venetian soil around the landing site where the temperature was 465 degrees Centigrade. The module took panoramic photographs and measured the soil for electric conductivity, physical and mechanic properties and seismic activity.

Court delays new runway

Wiesbaden. — West German ecologists yesterday won a resounding victory when a court ruled that work on an extension of Frankfurt airport should be suspended for a year.

Ecologists have fought the project for 10 years on the ground that it endangers Frankfurt's water supply. They have also opposed an extension on what is already Europe's biggest airport because it required the destruction of a huge forest.

Dacca appoints more ministers

Dacca. — President Abdus Sattar of Bangladesh has appointed two new ministers of state and two Cabinet ministers.

Mr Rezauddin Ahmed and Mr Syed Mohibul Hasan were in the Cabinet dissolved last month by the President. The newcomers are Mr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, the Deputy Speaker, and Mr Tariq ul Islam. Their portfolios are to be announced later.

Bonn relents on cosmonaut visa

Bonn. — West Germany has reversed a decision to withhold visas for Lieutenant-Colonel Valentin Tereshkova, the world's first spacewoman, and a Soviet youth delegation, sources said.

Bonn's initial refusal was linked on Thursday with recent government moves to curb official contacts with Moscow in protest at martial law in Poland. Yesterday a Foreign Ministry spokesman would confirm only that visas were now being issued for the visitors, and declined to comment.

Mengistu is safe Ethiopians say

Addis Ababa. — Ethiopia strongly denied claims by Eritrean separatists that Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Head of State, was wounded and in hospital.

The Foreign Minister said that the Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu was "well, in good health and carrying out his normal duties".

Kowloon caper too hot to handle

Hongkong. — A drunken European stole a fire-engine and careened through Kowloon for half an hour today before crashing into a funeral parlour, leaving behind him dozens of wrecked cars and three people injured.

Police and firemen finally caught up with the engine only to see a thin, bespectacled man, aged about 20, leap from its cabin and disappear into the labyrinthine side streets.

Stunt misfires

Stockholm. — Mr Johan Toren, a Swedish stuntman working on Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*, severely burnt his hands when a scene in which he set fire to himself went wrong. He was ordered to rest for a month.

Escapee hunted

Paris. — French police are still searching for Mr Edward Howell, the Irish republican who escaped from his guards at Orly airport after being deported from Canada.

Broadcaster dies

Antol Goldberg, the BBC's leading commentator on Soviet and European affairs, died in London, aged 71. His external service broadcasts were heard mainly in Russia.

CORRECTION

The Associated Press reported erroneously in a story published yesterday that a spokesman for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd had said an Ontario nuclear worker died because of exposure to radiation at work. In fact, the spokesman said that exposure to radiation was the most probable cause of the man's cancer.

Argentina refuses to send troops

Brasilia, March 5. — Argentina has no intention of sending soldiers to El Salvador, but does not rule out the possibility of selling arms to the El Salvador Government, said Mr Nicanor Mendez, the Foreign Minister, said here at the end of an official visit to Brazil.

Speaking at a press conference amid reports of increasingly close ties between Argentina's military regime and the ruling junta in El Salvador, he said: "Argentina... has no intention of sending soldiers to El Salvador. But El Salvador has an objectively legitimate Government. Argentina has relations with it."

"That Government sometimes asks for aid. Argentina gives such aid as long as it is in accordance with international principles and with the type of aid Argentina gives other countries."

□ San Salvador: A 10-day battle for control of the Cerro Guazapa hills near San Salvador appeared today to have been won by government troops, although left-wing guerrillas said they were carrying on the fight (Reuters reports).

Colonel Edmundo Palacios, commander of a 2,000-strong force which has borne the brunt of the fighting, said yesterday that his troops had gained full control of the hills about 15 miles from the capital, killing 200 guerrillas.

Criticism rejected of Salvador observer

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Government has reaffirmed its complete confidence in Sir John Galsworthy, a former ambassador to the United States, who is observing the elections of the El Salvador Government, said Mr Nicanor Mendez, the Foreign Minister, said here at the end of an official visit to Brazil.

Lord Bethell said it was particularly ironic that Sir John had been chosen to monitor the El Salvador elections at this time because, by coincidence, the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, is today dedicating a memorial to the Yalta victims. The stone monument, which has been built with private funds, has been built on Crown land opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum in Kensington.

Today's ceremony will be attended by a Russian woman, who now lives in south London but whose forcible repatriation was once recommended by Sir John Galsworthy. The return of the woman and her husband was halted only when the Quaker movement intervened on their behalf.

Sir John, who now works as a consultant for a British firm in Mexico City, called at the Foreign Office yesterday for a final briefing on his mission to El Salvador by Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. Mr Luce thanked Sir John for agreeing to undertake the role of observer of the forthcoming elections alongside Professor Derek Bowett, an international lawyer and president of Queen's College, Cambridge.

He quoted from a note written by Sir John who was then in his mid-twenties, about the case of 42 Russians who had asked to stay in Britain after the war. "They seemed to us to deserve no sympathy and we think our

Aid for Caribbean

Mixed reaction to Reagan package

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, March 5

The Commonwealth Caribbean has been reacting with mixed feelings to the economic proposals made a week ago by President Reagan in Washington for the Caribbean basin countries.

While the proposals have been broadly welcomed in some places, from Belize at one end of the Caribbean to Antigua at the other, there has been a strong sense of indignation in Grenada which will not get a cent from the proposals, and a cool reaction in the Guyanese capital, Georgetown.

President Reagan proposed \$350m in additional emergency aid for the region this year, mainly for El Salvador and Costa Rica. Jamaica will be the only major Commonwealth Caribbean recipient. He also offered extra military assistance, duty-free concessions and incentives for new American investment.

The package, more than a year in the making, is expected to have tough time in Congress.

The proposals are the Reagan Administration's response to fears about Caribbean stability and security. Washington sees communist influence stretching westwards from Havana into Central America and eastwards into Grenada and the other Caribbean islands.

Mr Reagan singled out Jamaica to praise it for making freedom work, while he made it clear Grenada and Nicaragua would be excluded unless there was a radical change of direction. The tough talk is to be backed in April by military exercises in the Caribbean, including a mock landing at the United

States base on Cuba's Guantanamo Bay. The main champion of the proposals has been Mr Edward Seaga who has worked closely with Washington since defeating his Socialist predecessor Mr Michael Manley, 16 months ago. He described them as "bold, historic and far-reaching."

But Mr Tom Adams, the Bados Prime Minister, who is regarded as Washington's leading friend in the eastern Caribbean and who will play host to Mr Reagan when he spends a five-day working holiday on the island at Easter, has criticized the absence of direct aid to meet the urgent infrastructural needs of the struggling eastern Caribbean economies.

Although most Commonwealth Caribbean governments are already sensitive to any hint of Cuban interference, debate is focused on Mr Reagan's political motives. Should Washington be dictating a regional development policy giving aid to ideological criteria which include a show of commitment to private enterprise and the creation of favourable investment climate?

Mr Manley commented: "The sole objective is to ensure that the entire Western Hemisphere must subscribe to Reagan's right-wing political philosophy or suffer the consequences. Aid to individual Caribbean countries will be based, not on development programmes designed by their own governments, but on conformity with American policy and economic ideals."

Grenada, which is a member of the Caribbean commu-

nity, sees the Reagan proposals as an attempt to dictate to the region who its friends shall be, and insisted angrily: "We are not for sale."

The private sector's pleasure at President Reagan's free enterprise conditions are offset by genuine fears of the power of transnational companies outside national control. Whole Caribbean private sectors are often embryonic, the Guyana Government already controls 80 per cent of the economy, and Trinidad and Tobago, with its far from socialist Government, operates a large state sector.

The passive role of the Reagan proposals' original co-sponsors — Mexico, Venezuela and Canada — has undermined their reservations about Mr Reagan's political motives and enthusiasm for military aid. Mr Reagan's insistence on lumping the Commonwealth Caribbean together with Central America in a single ideological framework has renewed suspicions that Washington's interest in the region is less charitable than the President says.

Few governments here seriously believe structural under-development can be corrected by private-sector stimulation of a grand anti-Cuba alliance.

Political Cuban penetration of the eastern Caribbean is overshadowed by Venezuelan and Colombian interests in the area, and remains insignificant beside the problems posed by colonial relationships, American backing for the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti, and pressures brought against political reform in Grenada and Surinam.

Economically, the area's problems may respond only

to radical changes in international economic arrangements. The eastern Caribbean islands tend to be crippled by infrastructure weaknesses, their reliance on exports, for example, and their inability to generate enough employment or control inflation, and the pressure of world recession and high energy costs.

The free market forces Mr Reagan recommends have played havoc with their commodity prices, driving down their income and weakening demand of Jamaica and Guyanese bauxite.

President Reagan's refusal to channel aid through the Caribbean or Inter-American development banks further weakens the area's own say in its development. Although removal of duty barriers (once American criteria are met) will offer relief to sugar exporters, for example, 80 per cent of regional goods already enter the American market duty-free.

Dominica offers a good example of the difficulty. Three times in three years it has been devastated by hurricanes. Three times in barely a year it has faced attempted coups, mounted by North American adventurers rather than Cuba. Its basic services and communications are barely enough for survival. Its tiny defence force has been disbanded as a political liability, and several detainees — including the former Prime Minister — are facing trial for involvement in attempts to overthrow the Government. Dominica imports five times as much as it exports. How, observers here ask, can President Reagan's proposals make any real structural difference?

Vietnamese protest at intrusion

From David Watts, Singapore, March 5

Vietnam has lodged a formal protest with the Chinese over the intrusion of "40 armed vessels" into Vietnamese waters. Hanoi radio said a Note sent to the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi today "vehemently condemned this serious act that violated the sovereignty and territorial waters of Vietnam".

The Vietnamese claim that the boats were sent to carry out espionage and provocations. The incident appears to be one of the most serious since border clashes between the two countries last May in which the Chinese claimed to have killed about 350 marauding Vietnamese troops.

Hanoi earlier claimed that Vietnamese fishermen captured a Chinese boat and set fire to three others during the incident on Wednesday off the central province of Bin Tri Thien.

The Vietnamese Note appeared to reserve the right of retaliation against the Chinese for the alleged intrusion, speaking of Hanoi's determination to defend its sovereignty.

□ Hongkong: After vainly awaiting resettlement for five months, two Vietnamese fishermen have decided to return home from Hongkong (Richard Hughes writes). Over the past four years only three groups, each of six frustrated refugees, have applied for return and been taken back.

Peking to free 4,000 Chiang men

From David Bonavia, Peking, March 5

China will soon release about 4,000 former soldiers and officials of the old nationalist Government, the Kuomintang, and those who spread rumours about Chiang Kai-shek's forces in 1949. Their release is seen as another move in Peking's policy of reconciliation with Taiwan.

In the past Taiwan has refused to admit released Kuomintang prisoners, who are said to have spent the period since the communist victory being "reeducated".

□ China today attacked foreign journalists who spread rumours about Chinese leaders, a clear reference to speculation about Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping who recently disappeared from public view for five weeks (Reuters reports).

The *People's Daily* did not name any journalists or news organizations, but was clearly referring to reports that Deng may have been ousted in a bloodless coup or that he had been the target of an assassination attempt. The Chinese Foreign Ministry last month dismissed these reports as "vicious fabrication".

Dr Graev told investigators that a scratch on Mrs May's vertebra, which had given rise to speculation that she might have been strangled, was caused by rodents.

The remains of Mrs May and her friend Gabriella Guerini were found by hunters in a rough mountainous area near here on January 27, 14 months after they disappeared mysteriously.

Signor Ermanno Mura, the local state prosecutor, said that a scratch on Mrs May's vertebra, which had given rise to speculation that she might have been strangled, was caused by rodents.

Violent death ruled out in May case

Cameroon, March 5. — An Italian pathologist said today that an examination of the remains of Jeanette May, and her Italian companion proved that their deaths were not caused by physical violence.

Dr Mario Graev said the two had not died from what he termed "traumatic factors", thereby ruling out strangulation or other violent causes of death. He left open the possibility that the women were poisoned.

Dr Graev outlined the results of the post-mortem examination by telephone and that a written report will follow within a week.

Earlier, Dr Graev had ruled out the possibility of gunshot or other wounds on the bodies.

Italian authorities have maintained from the beginning that the women had probably frozen to death after getting stranded on the Sibillini mountains. — AP.

AS NEWS

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have fought the 10 years on the it it endangered water supply also opposed a what is already ggest airport required the of a huge forest.

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— West German sed a decision to visas for Lieuten- l Valentina Teres- world's first space- nd a Soviet youth, sources said. Thursday with ernment moves to ial contacts with a protest at maral land. Yesterday a finistry spokesman firm only that was being issued for rs, and declined to

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Ababa. — Ethiopi denied claims by separatists that it-Colonel Mengistu riam, the head of s wounded and in

reign Minister said Lieutenant-Colonel was "well, in good id carrying out his ities".

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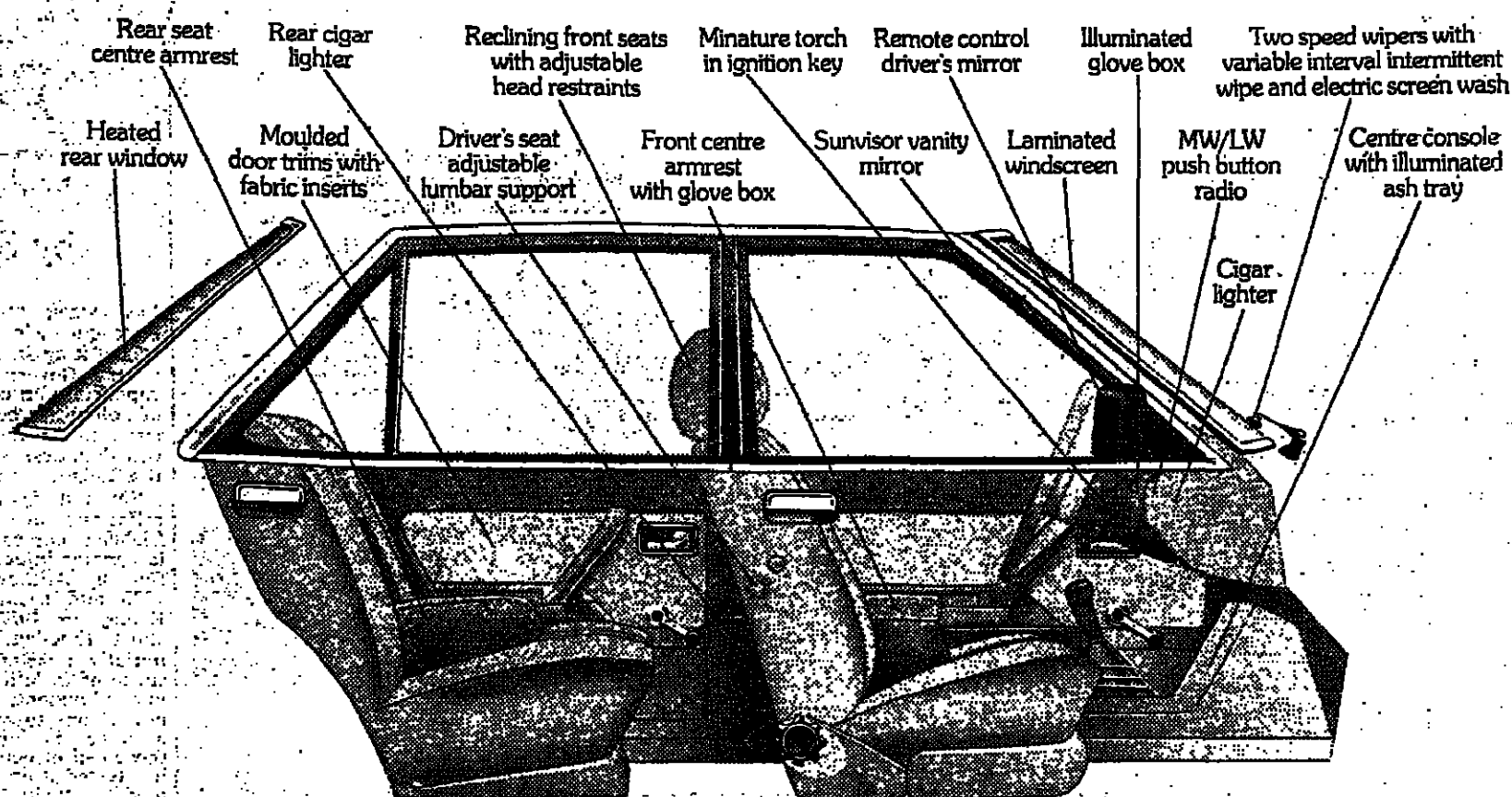
— French police are chine for Mr. Edward the Irish republican aped from his guards airport after being from Canada.

caster dies

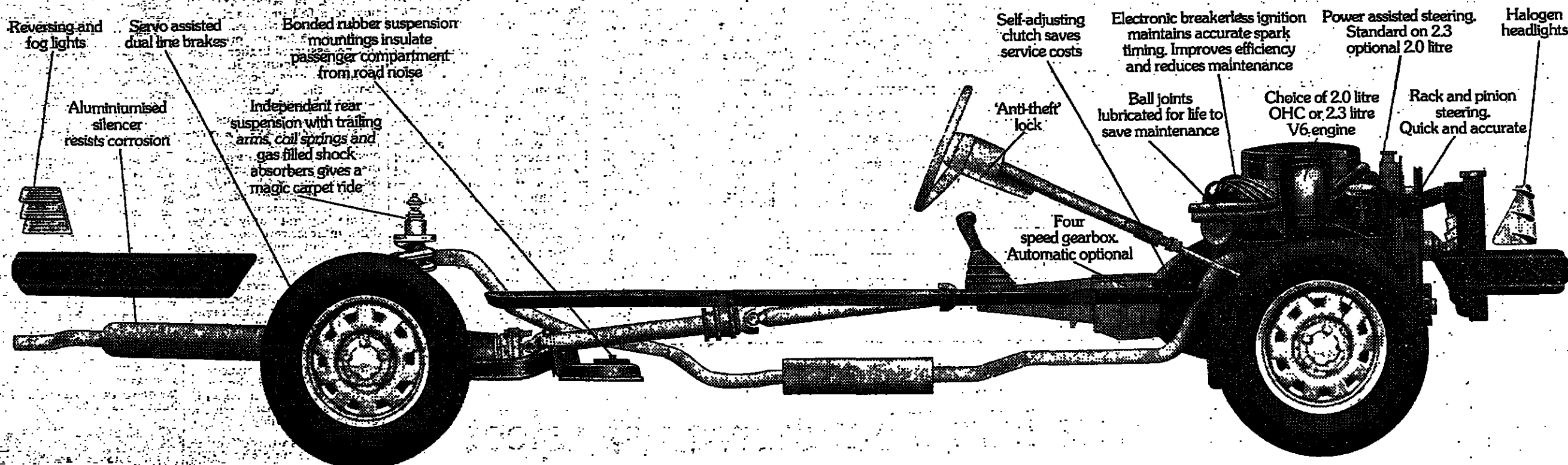
Goldberg, the BBC's commentator on nd European affairs, London, aged 71, service broadcasts ard mainly in Russia.

ORRECTION

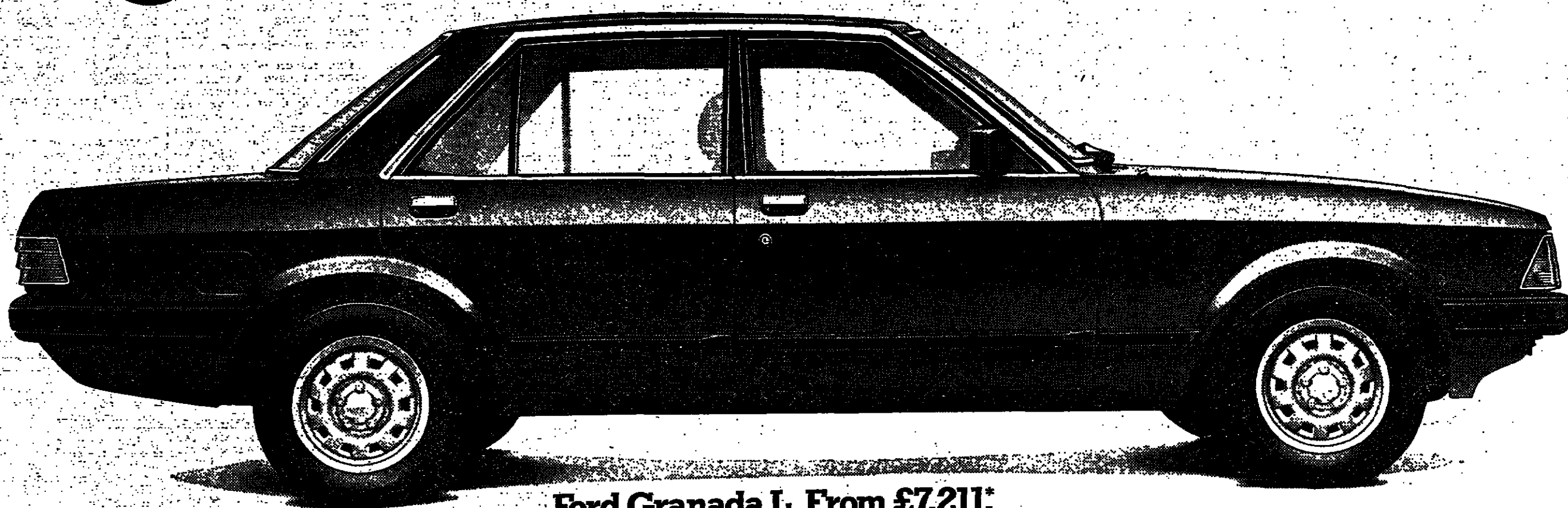
Associated Press 1 erroneously in a published yesterday spokesman for Atomic of Canada Ltd had n Ontario, nuclear n died because of e to radiation at e fact the spokesman at exposure to rad- as the most probable the man's cancer.



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HONEST MONEY IS BEST

The opposition parties have been queuing up this week to get their retaliation to the Chancellor's Budget in before he speaks. The electors are now presented with a pack of inflationary cards from which they are invited to choose. The SDP want to pump £600m into the economy. The Liberals £5,000m and the Labour Party around £9,000m.

Mr. Shore's proposals, however carefully they have been run through the Treasury model, would open the door to disaster. The scale of the inflation is far too great. The aim is to generate 5 per cent growth next year. The last time we had growth above 4 per cent was in 1973. That led to the inflationary explosion of 1974 from which we have been trying to recover ever since.

If the economy has been hurt even half as much by the present government as Mr. Shore thinks it has been, it is in no shape to take an injection of demand on that scale. The proposals try to hide their inflationary effect behind a price-cutting smoke-screen. Nearly half of the money would go to subsidies of one kind or another, mostly for the nationalized industries. We have lived through that before. Time after time governments have wrecked the finances of

nationalized industries in the cause of price restraint. Time after time the economy has had to suffer extra inflation when the subsidies are withdrawn.

When the money runs out we find that prices are as high as they would have been without the whole costly exercise. The nationalized industries have put off yet again the improvements in efficiency which they need; and the money which ought to have gone in useful investment has been frittered away.

The Labour plan is thus guilty of spending too much money in the least sensible way. The purpose of this spasm of largesse has been made clear by Mr. Shore. It is to talk the unions into agreeing to a "national economic assessment" on sharing out the nation's income. Stripped of the fog designed to get that sort of talk through a Labour Party conference, he means a pay policy after the first year of Labour government. Without that, the programme will lead automatically to runaway inflation. Yet how can the voters expect such a pay policy to hold when Labour's economic spokesmen dare not even use its real name?

Both the Social Democrats and the Liberals have more modest programmes and more sensible ways of spending the money they wish to use. Both

parties in the alliance would cut the National Insurance surcharge, the SDP by 2 percentage points and the Liberals by abolishing it altogether. Some reduction in NIS is highly desirable. As we have argued in the past, it hurts jobs and it hurts companies, two things which should be getting all possible help from this government.

The Liberals want to go too far too fast. The SDP proposal may be more sensible, but the very limited resources available to the Chancellor probably point to an even smaller cut.

Much else in the SDP programme is commendable. The trouble is that in trying to have them all at once the SDP comes up with a total bill which at £4,000m is much more than the country can afford at the moment. An increase in borrowing on that scale would put undesirable pressure on interest rates. That, in its turn, would take back from the industrial sector much of the benefit which had been given through cutting NIS.

The Chancellor ought to give the economy some sign that he is committed to seeing expansion over the year ahead. But the cut in the oil price last week confirms our view that this time a small stimulus of about £2,000m would be enough.

Plan for loans to industry

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey, North West (Conservative). Sir, On February 19 you published a full account of the proposals of the study group set up by the Conservative Backbench Industry Committee, which are designed to achieve an investment-led recovery through the private sector. The basis of the recommendations is to promote new confidence in industry in the British financial system.

As a result of very thorough research the study group diagnosed an urgent need to provide an alternative to the UK's traditional methods of financing industrial investment. At present, payback periods of two to three years are seen as the normal criterion of investment, and annual return in excess of 40 per cent to be viable. Many projects with rates of return of 20 per cent remain stillborn.

My study group's proposals to grant corporation tax relief at the date of payment of interest on industrial long-term loans will provide the dynamism necessary for our industrial renaissance. The cash flow cost of capital will be substantially reduced and industry enabled to expand and modernise by being released from the constraints of current conditions, which are not viable.

It is proposed that the banks carry the tax cost of the scheme on average for the first 18 months of the new productive investment which will be created. The cost to the Exchequer during this period. Any subsequent cost will only emerge if the scheme is successful, and will be matched by the steady impact on the economy of substantial investment money, creating new wealth and jobs. Money supply will not be distorted as in the case when a consumer/import inflationary boom is created.

Much has been said and written in recent weeks about the measures which should be taken by the Government and the Chancellor, in particular, in his forthcoming Budget statement, to reduce industry's costs and to reflate the economy.

I totally support the Chancellor and the Government's priority of bringing inflation under control, resisting the temptation to increase Government spending of taxpayers' money for a short-lived boom. The harsh medicine which has been necessary to bring this country back into the real world of international trade and tough competition will have been suffered in vain if we do not allow the course of present policy to be completed and the full longer-term benefit obtained. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL GRYLLS, Chairman, Conservative Industry Committee, House of Commons.

Corruption in Nice

From Mr Graham Greene, CH

Sir, When I wrote to you recently on the corruption which prevails in the region of Nice, I had no intention of drawing a political argument from my very personal experience of the criminal milieu of the corruption among a section of the police and the dubious conduct of certain avocats and magistrates. Ordinary people in the area have welcomed an attack on what they regard as the Ministry of the Interior described to me as a "wall of corruption", whether the attack comes from a government of the right or the left. I have received many letters since then from men and women who have suffered what they feel as gross injustice.

However, the Mayor of Nice, Monsieur Jacques Médecin, has chosen to accuse me of being a political tool of the present administration, "un vieux gâteux" (an old dodder) and a writer seeking publicity. If he reads books, he will be amused and enjoy the next novel of the old dodder which contains no reference to the affairs of his city, though I can hardly expect him to enjoy it. I have now written my pamphlet, "The Corruption in Nice", which is now ready for publication. Yours truly, GRAHAM GREENE, Antibes, Alpes Maritimes, March 1.

Enduring Latin

From Professor C. O. Brink

Sir, Mr K. Wellesley (February 26) is quite right to make the difference in scope and scale between what he calls "the modest and excellent Oxford Latin Dictionary," now happily completed, and the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, the only Latin dictionary based on the whole surviving evidence up to the third century AD and on a large selection of the evidence up to the sixth century. As he hints, the work is international. In fact, if I may be forgiven a superlative, the *Thesaurus* is one of the most remarkable of international and collaborative efforts in recent scholarship.

Mr Wellesley will be glad to know that the British Academy, together with other academies, has been supporting the *Thesaurus* for a long time. Moreover in the last seven years the academy has been defraying a large part of the stipends of young classical scholars from this country, each working for two years or so as editorial assistants at Munich, and being "supported in decent" for that purpose. This kind of arrangement benefits classical scholarship in this country as much as it benefits the great dictionary itself. Yours faithfully, CHARLES BRINK, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compulsory service to the community

From Dr C. H. Neville-Smith

Sir, I read with interest your editorial of February 27 "Your country needs you". The ones which have the necessary moral force to give the debate we hope for some chance of making general and political progress, against the tremendous resistance to compulsory service represented by such cries as "cheap labour" and "militarism", a resistance to which your leader itself draws attention.

First of all, I think that the decisive preliminary emphasis should be on every citizen's responsibilities, which as you rightly say have been almost forgotten. It is the emphasis on "rights" at every level.

In my work, first as a schoolteacher and now as a college lecturer, I find that many pupils and students are at first taken aback by a strong emphasis on duties and responsibilities which they seem hardly to have encountered before, but in almost every case they respond as if to a drink of water in the desert.

Secondly, I think that the idea should be one of service to the community and society (with a choice of many tasks, including by all means military training and why not some form of reserve police training). It should have a strong local element in the placings to encourage acceptance as well as a national one to encourage a sense of country. It should be put forward in its own right as long overdue and the need for it to be compulsory would eventually become clear. It should be seen neither as a palliative for unemployment nor, still less, as a way of reintroducing military conscription.

Doubtless the fact that its adoption would help ease the problems in both those areas would assist in the acceptance and adoption of such a policy (as the unemployment situation has helped the Manpower Services Commission with its long term plans for youth training). But that is another matter. If some such proposal as yours is to be floated and goes under way a great deal will depend on its flying the appropriate flag. Yours faithfully, C. H. NEVILLE-SMITH, The Old Manse, Rendall, Orkney, Scotland, March 3.

From Mrs Pamela Moore

Sir, I should like to pick out for emphasis and comment two points made in your very well-

Cricketers in S Africa

From Mr Edgar Palamoutain

Sir, Congratulations to Lord Chalfont on his timely and courageous protest (March 3) against the emotional and hypocritical clamour over the English cricketers in South Africa — and to you for giving his letter the prominence it deserved.

Nordy, surely, can have forgotten the Moscow Olympics. Strong views were expressed about the merits of British representation but these were entirely in the context of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, without which there would have been no cricket. In the event every athlete who wished to participate did so and no sanctions were imposed — or, I think, even suggested — against those who did. Contrast this with the strident demands for ostracism of the English cricketers, a far less naturally representative body than the athletes.

This, Sir, is yet another example of the double standard, under which the suppression of human rights is (rightly) condemned in South Africa and South America but regarded with tolerance when practised by Communist and black African dictatorships.

As for the threat to the Commonwealth Games and other international contests, one may be permitted to wonder whether the cause of unity among nations might not in the end be advanced by their discontinuance. The idea that sport involving national prestige promotes harmony has looked increasingly threadbare for many years past. Yours faithfully, EDGAR PALAMOUNTAIN, Duns Tew Manor, Oxford, March 3.

From Mr Donald Penheath

Sir, I applaud the action of Boycott and co in playing cricket in South Africa. Any action which serves to keep a racist

Badgers and disease

From Dr C. L. Cheeseman and others

Sir, Following the report in *The Times* of February 11 under the heading "Scientists doubt badger disease link" we, the authors of the paper referred to in the report, would like to record that the conclusion suggested by the headline could not be drawn from the information presented in our paper. Our findings cast no doubt on the role of the badger in the spread of tuberculosis to cattle. We fully

Uses of literature

From Mr R. P. Graves

Sir, In *The Times* today (February 25) Miss Margherita Laski, Chairman of the Literature Panel of the Arts Council of Great Britain, asks for "viable ideas on how to increase the use of literature throughout the community". What on earth does she mean?

Literature can be used for entertainment, for instruction, and for the enrichment of one's life. What other uses has it? When he was a young man, John Cowper Powys used to tear out pages from any book he happened to be reading at the time, in order to make a spill with

Future of interned Polish leaders

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Essex, South East (Conservative)

Sir, General Jaruzelski's announcement (report, March 4) of his readiness to let the interned leaders of Solidarity and the opposition movement to leave Poland without permission to return is a shocking act. It is not only a violation of the UN Charter of Human Rights, the Helsinki Agreement, and the fundamental principles of justice as we understand them in the West; it is worse. The aim is to remove a whole generation of leaders. In its political effect it is comparable to the wartime extermination of the Polish elite at Katyn and elsewhere in Russia.

Our Government is right in refusing to be an accomplice to such a crime. In condemning this latest outrageous decision of the Warsaw regime, condemned if not dictated by Moscow, we should continue to insist on the long overdue release of all who have been deprived of freedom under martial law. If, subsequently, some of them decide to seek asylum in this country they would be welcome, but this must be the result of their own free choice and not enforced by the threat of permanent imprisonment as the only alternative.

Yours truly, BERNARD BRAINE, Chairman, British "Solidarity with Poland" House of Commons, March 5.

Lead in petrol

From Mr Des Wilson

Sir, The letter from Mr Anthony Fraser of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (March 4) perpetuates the unnecessary debate started by Professor Bryce-Smith (February 23) about whether existing cars will run on lead-free fuel. Most of those concerned about lead in petrol, including the Campaign for Lead-free Air (CLEAR), believe existing cars should be able to end their useful lives on leaded petrol whilst new cars are manufactured to run on lead-free and all petrol stations required to supply it. This is the way overseas countries are phasing out lead in petrol.

Mr Fraser completely distorts what CLEAR has said. We have not said that airborne lead is "the major contributor to lead in food". What is a fact is that 90 per cent of all airborne lead comes from car exhausts, and it is both breathed in and eaten, and if we accept, as the British Medical Association board of science did this week, that "all forms of lead pollution should be eliminated", lead in petrol has to take the highest priority.

Secondly, we do not, as Mr Fraser said, "admit" that decisions by other countries to eliminate lead from petrol were made because of the effect of lead on catalytic converters. This was indeed a factor in the United States, but the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Court of Appeals have confirmed that the health factor was of equal importance. The basis of the Australian decision to move to lead-free petrol was the health evidence. An analysis of the correspondence on this issue over the past few weeks shows the opposition to lead-free petrol is restricted almost entirely to the industry with a financial vested interest. While not being in the least surprised by their cynicism I am amazed that they cannot see the inevitability of a move to lead-free petrol and thus that even on purely selfish financial grounds it makes sense for them to start now.

Yours faithfully, DES WILSON, Chairman, Campaign for Lead-free Air, 2 Northdown Street, N1, March 4.

From Mr Stephen Corrin

Sir, Lord Chalfont (letter, March 3) is not logical. If racial discrimination is (as he says) "abhorrent" to the civilised mind, then he, as a civilised man, must surely abhor the discriminatory practices that are so painfully evident in South Africa. In which case, why should he at least not discourage, if not condemn, those sportsmen who go there to play for gain and thereby give comfort and possibly favourable publicity to a nakedly repressive regime?

Despite Lord Chalfont's rather hysterical suggestion to the contrary, citizens of this country are not normally deprived of freedom to practise their sporting activities wherever they wish to do so. But surely there are cases, and South Africa is one, where they should be strongly — and officially — discouraged from doing so.

Yours sincerely, STEPHEN CORRIN, 10 Russell Gardens, NW11, March 3.

Water mysteries

From Mr L. H. Bloor

Sir, I have this morning received from the Severn-Trent Water Authority my bill for the 12 months, 01/04/82 to 31/03/83. It tells me five times that my property reference (to be quoted in all enquiries) is 4884700250200X; three times, that my own reference is 4883677; twice, that the Authority's Girobank credit account number is 4010426; and scattered about the bill and unlabelled are 30800, 17082, 74010426 (twice), 15PA (twice), 20BA (twice) and << 30000+03363464 < 73X (twice).

When I was a boy we got our water (for free) from the brook, though one did need a certain amount of equipment — a yoke and two buckets. Even today my wife and I often dip a ladle in our rain-water butt.

How inefficient, irrational and unscientific we have been, all these years! Yours faithfully, L. H. BLOOR, 22 Little Lunnion, Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire, March 2.

BELFAST'S CLERICAL CONTEST

The parliamentary seat that was filled in Belfast yesterday was made vacant by the murder of the Rev Robert Bradford by the IRA on November 14. That murder was the culmination of a series of which the victims were members of, or connected with, the indigenous security forces of Northern Ireland. The aftermath was the moment of the Rev Ian Paisley's greatest potency. He articulated, as no one else did, the fury of Ulster Protestantism against those outrages, its resentment at the apparent weakness of the official response, and its suspicion that an intention, vague and distant as it might be, was being hatched between London and Dublin to cut Ulster adrift from the United Kingdom.

He ranted. He threatened to make the province ungovernable by those in legitimate authority. He dabbled in the penumbra of illegality by raising a "third force" for the defence of Protestant homes. Although much Ulster opinion was offended by the crudity of this, and by the contradiction implied in it of the very principle of the union, the force of Mr Paisley's rhetoric and the vigour of his actions appeared capable of carrying all before it. His ambition to establish

his Democratic Unionist Party as the unchallengeable vehicle of Ulster unionism was in the ascendant. He was assisted by tactical confusion within the Official Unionist party, and the fact that its leader, though sensible in his judgments, was no match in forcefulness.

Clearly this struggle for supremacy within Ulster unionism would be carried into the arena of the late Robert Bradford's constituency. He had been the only remaining Official Unionist member for Belfast after the 1979 election. He was a personal friend of Mr Paisley's, and it was alleged in the course of the by-election that he had been about to defect to the DUP, which, like the many other canards that were let fly, was denounced as scurrilous untruth by those it was intended to damage. Belfast South is variegated but dominantly sound Unionist territory. It would be vital for the Official Unionists to hold it, glorious for the DUP to take it.

Flanked by a supporting cast of six other candidates, two ministers of religion stepped out to the stage to slug it out between them, a hot and a cool gossamer. That is how the spectators saw it, and to judge from the result

it is how the voters saw it too. If the clerical vote is aggregated the party proportions repeat almost exactly the proportions of 1979. Then the Unionist proportion was 61.7 per cent, now the two candidates competing for it got 61.9 per cent between them. Both the SDLP, which had no republican challenger, and the non-sectarian Alliance party, which had an exceptionally strong candidate, fractionally improved their shares. The man offering independence for Ulster received 576 votes. The crucial division of the unionist vote went almost two to one in favour of the Rev Martin Smyth, Imperial Grand Master of the Orange Order, the candidate of the Official Unionists.

This does not make Mr Paisley and his DUP a spent force. Far from it. His man made a large dent in a previously unassailable Unionist vote. But it is some protection against defeatism in Unionist ranks, and gives them a hopeful reason to sort out their policy and leadership problems. Mr Prior too may draw some satisfaction. On this showing his assembly, if he ever gets it, ought not to be immediately lost to him. Even the centre, such as it is, held.

SPORT AND THE KILLING HABIT

Ministers come and go; lobbies can bargain away for ever. Wednesday's government announcement on cigarette promotion shows that the tobacco industry has succeeded in talking its way right through the terms of office of two Department of Health ministers who well understood the dangers of smoking, and settled terms with their successors that leave the industry almost unscathed. The Government's capitulation to an adroit and powerful pressure group, in disregard of a specific and authoritative appeal from leaders of the medical profession, does no credit to its sense of the balance between commercial interest and the public good.

The health dangers of cigarette smoking are so familiar that the ministers announcing the ignominious conclusions of two years' negotiations were able to rehearse them with no apparent sense of urgency or indignation. Every year it is the cause of at least 50,000 premature deaths, the loss of some 50 million working days, and £150 in Health Service costs for each taxpayer to find. In spite of a decline in recent years tobacco consumption is relatively high in Britain, and illnesses associated with smoking are more common here than in almost any other country in the world. The prosperity of a middle-sized industry employing in total only 35,000 is a small factor beside such considerations.

Previous Governments have judged that these facts

necessitated controls on advertising, and these have increased over the years. Mr Patrick Jenkin and Sir George Young came to the Department of Health hoping to carry the process a stage further. They accepted that voluntary agreement with the trade was preferable to statutory control and spent years trying to achieve it. The ease with which the industry has been able to filibuster the months away shows that commitment to progress is little use if a Government is not prepared to legislate if necessary to secure it.

The area of tobacco promotion that causes greatest disquiet today is that of sports sponsorship. Advertising as such needs to be under control, and some further controls are desirable, but an outright ban would be wrong. It would be unduly oppressive in principle where the commodity itself is freely on sale, and it would make it difficult to publicise safety factors such as low tar levels. The main purposes of the existing agreements have been to curb the especially strong influence of film and television advertising, for children in particular, to link advertising with reminders of the health risk, and to restrain blatant promotional association of smoking with images of glamour and success.

Sponsorship of sport effectively circumvents each of these objects. A letter sent to ministers last December from the President of the Royal College of Physicians and other leaders of the medical

profession claimed that BBC programmes alone gave tobacco industry sponsored events 190 hours of coverage in a six-month period in 1980 — the equivalent of more than a week's TV transmissions. The name of the product in such programmes is presented to audiences, including the young, without warning and in association with all the glamour and health of sports endeavour. The doctors' letter called for a complete end to tobacco sponsorship of sport, and while this could only be achieved in stages (to give other sponsors time to come forward, as they would not fail to do) that should be the objective to aim for. The Government has merely agreed to allow spending to be maintained with no cut in real terms, with the weak proviso that health warnings should be printed on tickets and posters, and that events should not be sponsored if most participants are under 18 (but the audiences count more than the participants). But the greatest coup for the industry in the announcement is the extension of the new agreements till "at least" December 1985. Thus all hope of legislation or further voluntary controls has been shelved for four years. This failure makes it all the more essential that the Government should not falter in using the means of controlling the killing habit that remain in its own hands. It is up to Sir Geoffrey Howe next week to repair in some measure the harm that Mr Macfarlane and Mr Fowler have done this week.

Sends of Iwo Jima, The Man Who Shot Liberty Bells, The Alamo and The Shootist as well, and I'm sure that more devoted cinemasts can remember others.

It would be interesting to know the final score, since it might do something to dispel the myth behind Ms Goodman's comment:

that Wayne only played roles in which he could be indomitable to beyond the last reel (and that he wasn't enough of an actor to relish a death scene).

Yours faithfully, GAVIN LYALL, 14 Provost Road, NW3, March 1.

A Wayne legend

From Mr Gavin Lyall

Sir, Joan Goodman was right to add that cautious "reputedly" when asserting (March 1) that *The Cowboys* was "the only picture in which [John] Wayne dies". I recall his deaths in *The*

SNAITH
t scholar

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W. STONE

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Every day, from around the middle of October, you may see people going up the lanes of the village pushing wheelbarrows, old prams or bicycles with baskets, laden with all manner of burnable refuse. Guy Fawkes night comes at a useful time for gardeners, everyone is clearing up. The pushers and pullers heave up the steep hill that runs out of the village to the east, Norman Lane, at the top of which is the football field on which the Youth Club and the Cubs and Scouts will construct that wondrous edifice, the Barley Bonfire.

Because the field is at the top of the hill, and there are wide views all the way round, the Barley Bonfire is also lit to celebrate royal and national events: But the Guy Fawkes one comes at the best time of all, it has a pagan magic that draws all who can make the climb to the top, to

stand in a wide circle around the fire as it roars up and the sparks and smoke fly free. Someone brings hot soup in an urn and dishes it out from the back of an estate wagon, others have baskets of bread rolls and sausages kept hot in foil, and there are toffee apples for the children.

Away from the light of the fire, at the edges of the field, in darkness, and you creep away from it, nearer to the warmth, and the people, understanding why primitive man huddled around the sticks he had learned how to burn. As we walk back home through the village, the smell of the bonfire merges with the smoke from everyone's chimney, and when we get indoors and hang up our coats and scarves, the smokiness clings to them, too, and the next morning there is the smell of old ash and charred earth on the wind. There is a smell to every season, and

smoke outdoors is the smell of November.

The Church, of course, doesn't mark Guy Fawkes night, but December the sixth is the feast of St. Nicholas and as Barley Church is dedicated to him there is a St. Nicholas feast which takes place in the church itself. So does the Parish harvest supper.

Barley is a very party-minded village, there is always much to-ing and fro-ing between houses, with people wearing their finery under overcoats, cars full of excited children emptying out to doorsteps. Nearly every- one has a lighted Christmas tree in the window and a holly wreath tied with red ribbons on the front door, and there are often little parcels on doorsteps, pots of preserves tied with a bow on top or bottles of home-made wine and cider and sloe gin. But the best of the Christmas

celebration is the carol singing on Christmas Eve.

This year Christmas eve came cold; frost lay hard as iron, the gutters and taps hung with icicles like sugar sticks and all the rooftops and stone walls, the garden fences and the gravestones, gleamed phosphorescent, like

Each night at the Mermaid Theatre, Alec McCowen plays an unrepentant Adolf Hitler, discovered alive in South America, in Christopher Hampton's adaptation of George Steiner's *The Portage to San Cristobal of A. H.* In a long and passionate self-defence, Hitler argues that the Jews have a lot to thank him for.



ADOLF HITLER, 1982

'Would Palestine have become Israel, would the Jews have come to that barren patch of the Levant, had it not been for the Holocaust? Perhaps I am the Messiah, the true Messiah...'



Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler?

by
Martin GilbertThe historian and official biographer
of Winston Churchill

The new play at the Mermaid theatre, *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.* ('A.H.' being Adolf Hitler), is causing considerable controversy. No doubt its author intended that this should be so. If the play had been a work solely of literary imagination, no historian would have cause to be perturbed.

In this play, however, the arguments which make such an impact on the audience are primarily historical, although some which are theological are equally damaging and will need to be answered by a theologian.

Replies to the charges in this play have to be made outside the framework of the play itself, because absolutely no attempt is made on stage to give any balance whatsoever. At the historical level, the stage-Hitler presents, unanswered, a series of accusations against the Jews launched with linguistic skill and oratorical effect. The author's challenge to our sluggish minds appears to succeed by a recital of historical 'facts' which, apparently, we had hitherto overlooked.

The first part of the play, before Hitler's 'defence' of his actions, already contains a number of historical errors. Thus one of the Jewish characters asks: 'Unless Hitler was a Jew, how else would he know we would walk so calm into the fire?'

This loose and provocative remark indicates a lack of knowledge on the part of the author of the Jewish response to persecution in the war years: armed resistance in dozens of ghettos, tens of thousands of acts of individual resistance, courage in the face of overwhelming odds, the heroism of the starving and the unarmed against the military might of victorious armies and armed thugs. All this is ignored, not even hinted at.

Lack of knowledge of the historical record is again shown in an offhand remark about Churchill's reaction to the

Jewish appeals to bomb the railways and crematoria. We are told in this play: 'The Old Man didn't want to know anything about that — it was not his sort of war'. In fact, Churchill, having been shown the first Jewish request for bombing, wrote immediately to Anthony Eden: 'Get anything out of the Air Force you can, and invoke me if necessary.'

As for Churchill's attitude to the war being separate from the persecution aspect, as the author alleges, this is not borne out by the evidence. On the contrary, speaking in the House of Commons in September 1942 he described the deportation of Jews as 'the most bestial, the most squalid' of all the Nazi offences, which illustrated 'as nothing else can the utter degradation of the Nazi nature and theme, and the degradation of all who lend themselves to its unnatural and perverted passions'.

In his monologue in the second part of the play, the stage-Hitler makes several unanswered assertions. The first historical assertion is that no one came to the rescue of the Jews, the implication being that the world without exception shared Hitler's attitudes.

'When I turned on the Jews', says the stage-Hitler, 'no one came to their aid, no one'. In fact thousands of non-Jews helped Jews. At one death camp alone, 1,500 Poles were executed for helping Jews. The Bulgarian Parliament refused to allow the deportation of even one of the 48,000 Jews living in Bulgaria. The Danish authorities ferried nearly 2,000 Jews across the sea to safety in neutral Sweden. The Finnish Government refused to deport 2,000 Jews from Helsinki to Germany.

The Archbishop of one Greek island, Zante, saved all 250 Jews of his island by giving them havens in remote villages, and threatening to share the fate if deported. Tens of

thousands of French, Belgian and Italian Jews were saved by villagers and priests who took them in at risk to their own lives.

The stage-Hitler's monologue is dominated, however, by his claim that without the Holocaust, there would have been no State of Israel. This once again unchallenged allegation is listened to by the Jews on the stage, who are made to appear as meek, mawkish schoolboys caught out by the legacy of their own wrong-doing, and forced to listen to an unexpected but deserved rebuke.

And what a rebuke it is! The Holocaust itself, the murder of six million Jews, was the one event which created the State of Israel, giving Hitler, so he demands, pride of place in the Zionist pantheon. It is as if the manufacturers of the doodlebug insisted upon a substantial credit for all injury payments to survivors of the flying bomb.

There is of course no doubt that events in Europe after 1939 radicalized the Zionist movement, and encouraged most Zionist leaders to demand statehood, rather than, say, Commonwealth status within a federal system of Jewish and Arab cantons, a plan many had favoured before 1939. But the events after the outbreak of war which transformed Zionism from a programme of compromise to one of confrontation neither began nor ended with the Holocaust.

These events included the wider context both of Allied reactions to Nazi policy before the war, and of the treatment of the survivors after the war by one of these same Allied Governments which, having destroyed Nazism, and thus in effect ended the Holocaust, now urged the survivors to remain in Europe, and took substantial steps to keep them there.

When the stage-Hitler de-claims that, but for himself and

his Holocaust, there would be no State of Israel, he mouths a persuasive but simplistic half-truth. Yet none of the stage Israelis who listen to his historical cliché do anything more than look sheepish.

No effort was made by the writer even to hint at the incompleteness of the argument which was presented, not only with a demonic vehemence as indeed befitted Hitler, but with a show of historic knowledge which suggested an embarrassing truth. Ironically, the real Hitler had understood from his earliest days that falsehood and innuendo, if presented with sufficient flurry of indignation, and apparent truth, could fool most of the people most of the time, and turn hitherto eccentric fringe lunacies into acceptable argument and then belief.

But to my mind the basic mocking fallacy of the claim that without the Holocaust there would have been no State of Israel lies elsewhere. The aim of the pre-war Zionists (both Weizmann's moderates and Jabotinsky's revisionists) was to build up the Jewish national home in Palestine with the most creative of Polish and European Jewry: the writers and artists, skilled technicians and artisans, specially trained farmers, teachers, doctors, lawyers etc, who were in fact the victims of the Holocaust. Many of them were being trained and organized in pre-war Europe to go to Palestine as certificates became available, and to prepare the Jewish National Home of the Mandate for eventual self-government, and then statehood. Very few

of these 'pioneers' survived. They were, indeed, often the very first victims of Nazi rule.

Far from creating Israel, the Holocaust deprived the new state of those very people for whom it had been envisaged, whose efforts and zeal were to make it possible, and whose qualities were intended to give it the best of European civilization and democracy, as well as solely Jewish characteristics and culture. The virtues of all that was of merit in the life of Warsaw, Prague and Budapest, as well as the historical Jewishness of bible and diaspora, were to be at the service of the new Jerusalem.

The Holocaust ensured that these pioneers never came. All that remained in Europe in 1945 were remnants. Most of those wanted only to return to their pre-war homes and were encouraged to do so by the victorious Allies. On doing so, they found hostility, and in Poland more than a thousand were murdered in cold blood by Polish gangs on their return. After the murder of 41 Jewish men, women and children in the Polish town of Kielce in April 1946, the exodus began: not the Holocaust, but its aftermath, was the cause. And not the already murdered pre-war pioneers, but a tiny remnant, many of them broken in body and spirit, some brutalized, others apathetic, turned towards Palestine. Thus it was that instead of the great reservoir of more than six million from which to draw, a mere 2 per cent, including many whose experiences had crushed them, survived the concentration camps to make their way to the new state.

The development of that state, far from being the creation of the Holocaust, had much wider historical origins than alleged by the stage-Hitler, who naturally made no reference, and had allowed no one to interrupt him, in order to refer

to such principal factors as the centrality of Zion in Jewish religious teaching and prayer ('next year in Jerusalem'); the secular Zionist ideology and immigration launched by Russian Jews in the 1880s; the Balfour Declaration of 1917 (giving British approval, no doubt for selfish reasons of state policy, to a 'Jewish National Home' in Palestine); the League of Nations Mandate of 1922 (giving international backing to the continued Jewish immigration needed in order to set up such a home); and the building up of a Jewish community in Palestine in the inter-war years, both by immigration, and by the encouragement and protection of the Mandate Power, Britain.

By the time Adolf Eichmann visited Palestine four years before the Holocaust, he found there a strongly organized and motivated local Jewish community, complete with its 'national' council, its education budget, its industrial policies, and a secular, socialist Trade Union movement linked with European trade unionism. Only two of the many landmarks on the Jewish road to statehood were of the period of the Holocaust, or after. The first was the Biltmore Conference in New York in 1942, the second was the United Nations vote in 1947 in favour of a Jewish State in a partitioned Palestine.

Biltmore had as its motive force a fierce American Jewish reaction against the pre-war British White Paper policy of 1939. It was a protest against the apparently Whitehall-based decision to make a Jewish majority in Palestine impossible for all time, by means of what Churchill himself had denounced as an Arab 'veto' on all Jewish immigration after five years (a 'veto' that was thus to come into effect in mid-1944).

The United Nations vote of

1947, in which the votes of the Soviet Union and its Communist allies were a numerical sine-qua-non, had reasons far too complex to be dismissed as the Holocaust alone.

Even in the United States, the pressures on President Truman had mounted, not because of what had happened to the Jews in the years before his presidency, but because of the British Government's refusal, during his presidency, to allow the Jewish survivors to go to Palestine.

The United States vote was further influenced, not by memories of the Holocaust, but by the actual deportation back to Europe (and even to Germany) of Jews who had succeeded in reaching the quayside at Haifa. The capture of the immigrant ship *Exodus* made its emotional impact because the return of its refugees to Europe was laid at the door of the British Government, and brought the emergence of the Jewish state much nearer. The fortified centre of Jerusalem was nicknamed Bevingrad, not Hitlerstadt.

These pre- and post-war episodes constitute an integral part of the complicated and controversial fabric of the emergence of Jewish statehood, so crudely simplified in the stage-Hitler's monologue. It may of course be argued that because these accusations come out of the mouth of a fictional stage-Hitler, they are therefore to be dismissed. But for anyone without a knowledge of the current historical debate, the stage-Hitler's historical arguments possess a deceptive attraction; and being attractive, they serve, ironically, to give the real Hitler a posthumous credibility, not merely among the gullible. Art can be no excuse for setting in motion a set of false historical charges against a whole people.

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In the country
Susan HillBonfires
and carol-singing

celebration is the carol singing on Christmas Eve.

This year Christmas eve came cold; frost lay hard as iron, the gutters and taps hung with icicles like sugar sticks and all the rooftops and stone walls, the garden fences and the gravestones, gleamed phosphorescent, like

silver snails' trails, where it had rained a little that morning and then suddenly frozen. Our breaths plumed out on the air, our footsteps rang, the stars prickled. There was that curious crackling feel to the atmosphere as it touched faces and fingers. Barley lay empty and

beautiful under the frost-rimmed moon. Behind closed doors, in firelight and lamp-light, people waited.

The singers arrived, and there was much blowing on hands and stamping and sucking of those red winter cough drops that smell of paraffin and cloves, and then, piling out of car and off bicycles, the players, mostly older children who belong to a nearby silver band, a trombone and two trumpets, a clarinet, several recorders, a saxophone; the leader played the flute and had a music stand borne ahead of her and set down at each stopping place by two eager pupils. More puffing and blowing and tuning up, a lot of throat clearing.

The vicar, wreathed in mufflers, said a prayer, gave a blessing, went home, coughing, and we were off, to the corner of the Old Manor

House, and by the alms-house, down as far as old Miss Reever's, whose dog barked, though she herself gave no sign that she had heard us; back up the lanes, marching hard, laughing and chatting, and joined on the way by late-comers, and various children. We sang 'O Come all ye Faithful' at the Fox and Feathers, under their ten-foot-high, lighted Christmas tree, and 'See Amid the Wreath of Snow' beside the ice-pond. We wished a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to ninety-three, year-old Mr Stump, who adjusted his hearing aid up and down, and got his wife, who is ninety-seven, to stand on a chair, and open the window wide, and greeted a new baby at Fen Farm with 'Away in a Manger'. Our fingers were stiff with cold and our voices raw as cheese-graters.

The church clock struck

ten. Some of the children were taken home. It was colder still, too cold for snow. We were glad to get to the Manor House again, and pile into the hall in the old way, for mince pies and sausage rolls and punch and the blazing fire on our frozen faces. The lights went out, except for those of the tree. 'Silent Night', which brings tears to the eyes. A second or two of absolute silence, before the bursting of a log up like a firework and down again in a great golden shower of sparks. Laughter and lights again and a Happy Christmas, a Happy Christmas, and a Happy Christmas floating faint on the freezing air down all the lanes and home.

© Susan Hill, 1982
These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29.

On the Nile/Peter Stothard Afloat with Omar

Sheraton's £5m new Nile cruisers are not the most beautiful craft to have sailed that river. They are fat, squat, four storeys high and painted in broad stripes of mustard, mauve and mud as though by the world's top designer of convent school blazers. But like much of modern Egypt — the hotels built like airport control towers, the hire cars curtained and upholstered like 50s front parlours — the Sheraton cruise ships are as luxurious for those inside as they are offensive to those without.

If you want to see the Egyptian sites the easy way — particularly in summer when it is hotter, cheaper and emptier — the good ships Tut, Anni, Aton and Hotp are a good choice to make. We flew to Cairo on a plain white Egyptian jet, unmarked, we were told, in order the less to offend Arab sensibilities on its post-Camp David flights to Israel. We began our cruise about an hour further south in Aswan, the sole British travellers amongst a mixed bag of Texans, Italians and vociferous Mississippians who took every opportunity to disparage the Nile to the advantage of their longer-wider-cleaner-older river back home.

British cruisers are fairly rare — although former Prime Minister James Callaghan had spent a holiday on the Hotp the previous month. Sheraton want more now, partly to make up for an expected fall-off in big-spenders from socialist France. Our cabin was comfortable, cleverly showered and toileted, large and highly satisfactory. On behalf of Texas shepherds down the corridor (mother, father and daughter) I can only report that theirs was apparently less so. The food was excellent, international/native and delivered with none of the drip-feed service (one waiter per glass, per plate) that characterizes the hotels on shore.

The gin ran out on the second day; the vodka on the third. But most people happily settled down to Omar Khayyam, a local semi-opiate wine. This quickly dulled whatever senses we had brought with us for our collective "ride into antiquity".

The tour guide was Mahmoud — or rather I thought he was until the last day when he turned out to be called something else. He was helpful, friendly and had a historical stance — broadly Marxist — that chimed strangely well with the attitudes — utterly capitalist — of his audience.

The key to all the Egyptian temples that stretched along the river banks between Aswan and our destination, Luxor, was simple: money. If a temple was dedicated to two gods it was because one god

had not been enough to bring in the desired revenues. There was no architecture that was not somehow linked to accountancy. The magic, mysticism and spirituality of the places were as so much hocus-pocus. It all went down very well with the cruisers and the street sellers of scarabs, Nefertiti and ramsheds rubbed home the point by doing a roaring trade every time we set foot outdoors.

Mahmoud and his audience came most to life at the Aswan dam, a two mile engineering masterpiece that holds back 100,000 tonnes and nine years worth of Nile flood water. Viewed from the tourist bus it has more devices to protect against enemy attack than the pyramids had against tomb robbers — and one hopes to better effect.

Few writers could look back at the suppressed waters of Lake Nasser without forming the script of a disaster movie in their heads. The deprecatory effects scattered among red-and-white striped sentry boxes seem little impediment to plotters — whether of the novelist or terrorist type. In front of the Aswan dam is the temple of Phylae, both an architectural and an engineering miracle in that the entire 2,000-year-old structure had been recently moved a quarter-of-a-mile in order to protect it from the dam's deprecatory effects.

Mahmoud sadly shows us the original site of London's Cleopatra's Needle and cheerfully shows us the graffiti left by the dying troops of Lord Kitchener. It is not that he is a Britisher simply that he likes to make the achievements (even the existence) of Kitchener and Gordon seem as misty and uncertain as those of the minor Ptolemies. Mahmoud is not a Britisher simply that he likes to make the achievements (even the existence) of Kitchener and Gordon seem as misty and uncertain as those of the minor Ptolemies.

A brochure giving details of Sheraton's Nile cruises is available from travel agents or from the Sheraton Corporation's offices at Roxburgh House, 273 Regent Street, London, W1R 8BJ. (Tel 01-408 2408). In the summer season, June to September, a cabin for two costs £371.



Destination	Nights	Operator	Price	Save	Departure
SKIING					
St. Lary, France	7/14s/c	Thomson	£62/70	£30/40	Mar, Manchester
Formigal, Spain	7/14s/c	Thomson	£73/77	£30/40	Mar, Luton
Livigno, Italy	7/14h/b	Global	£123/177	£20	Mar 20
Madesimo, Italy	7/14h/b	Global	£146/220	£20	Mar 20
Val d'Isère, France	7/14f/b	Ski MacG	£189/289	£38/43	Mar 13
Meribel, France	7/14f/b	Ski MacG	£199/289	£37/45	Mar 13
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St. Anton, Austria	7/1f/b	Supertravel	£149	£50	Mar 21
Courchevel, France	7/14f/b	Ski West	£169/229	£50/90	Mar 13
Zermatt, Switzerland	7/14f/b	Ski West	£164/224	£30/56	Mar 20
Verbier, Switzerland	7/1f/b	Ski West	£175	£30	Mar 27
Seefeld, Austria	7h/b	Swans	£153	£30	Mar 21, Manchester
WINTER SUN & CITIES					
Vienna	3h/b	Pegasus	£135	£15	Mar 18, Luton
Florence	3h/b	Pegasus	£130	£20	Mar 12, Luton
Malta	7/14h/b	Portland*	£135/175	£35/47	Mar 19 & 26, Luton
Algave	18s/c	Silvair	£125	£86	Apr 18
Malaga	14s/c	Silvair	£135	£50	Apr 17
Agadir, Morocco	7h/b	Ellerman	£159	£55	Mar 13 & 20, Glasgow
Madeira	14s/b	Tjaereborg*	£209	£36	Mar 17 & 24, Manchester
Malta	14n/b	Tjaereborg	£1394	£41	Mar 27

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. *May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111, or 061-228 1188. Tjaereborg 01-499 8676 and 061-236 9511. Ellerman's late booking line is 021-843 8085.

Discount news

Sunshine and skiing discounts are still plentiful.

Thomson has "square deal" reductions on April holidays to Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Greece. Under this scheme the customer chooses the departure airport, date and resort, and Thomson allocates the hotel. Also available, under the company's "best buy" scheme,

are apartment and taverna holidays in Ibiza, Crete and Corfu. These April holidays have been reduced by up to £35 and there are departures from Gatwick, Luton, Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle.

"Skiing discounts include reductions of up to £80 on Nelson holidays. The company is discounting resorts in Italy, France and Austria on selected dates in March and April on the basis that skiers choose the board arrangement, departure date and

airport, and destination country, and the company allocates the resort and accommodation.

Snowtime is offering a second week of free skiing to holidaymakers who book one week in Meribel, beginning on March 13. The price of this two-week chalet holiday is £200, a saving of £115 on brochure prices. During the first week Snowtime customers will also have an opportunity to test some of next year's skis from top manufacturers.

Drink/Pamela Vandye Price Southern joys

Red Burgundy is one of the best-loved but least known of wines. The overall region is not large and holdings can be definitely small. The style of the great negociants is varied, as is that of individual growers. But the person who simply says "I like Nuits St. George" is admitting ignorance; there are so many vineyards, so many versions made by the shippers and so many growers' wines, all different.

The supply of the better-known wines is always less than demand, the budget-conscious should try less familiar wines, many of which, from the southern part of the region, now achieve great quality. Look, too, at the details of any label, not just at the name of the wine: if the advice of a reputable merchant cannot be obtained, then at least some knowledge of how to interpret the labels will save disappointment.

The two paperbacks, *Burgundy, vines and wines* by John Ariotti and *Christopher Fielden (Quarter) or Guide to the Wines of Burgundy* by Graham Chidgey (Pitman) will assist shopping, especially if you do not want to buy bottles costing double figures.

True red Burgundy should be elegant, velvety, alluring, never cloying or heavy. Beware the suspiciously low priced "bargain", unless it is recommended by a reliable supplier. For example, one with the unpretentious appellation and name "Bourgeois Rouge" 1979 has the special plus of the name of Aubert de Villaine, one of the Romance-Conti proprietors, on the label.

The result is a good example of typical Burgundian Pinot Noir: a clean, delicately fruity style, crisp finish and charming full flavour. If you hide the label, people may well guess it is something more important. This costs £3.95 from the Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Road, SW10, or, at the shop of the same name, at Cité Berryer, 25 rue Royale in Paris, it costs £2.25.

It would be a good wine with which to register a basic red Burgundy character. If you served it first at a dinner, you might follow with the 1978 Savigny-les-Beaune Les Lavières, which

is more profound and firm exemplifying both the Savigny character and why this bottle costs more — although some drinkers may understandably prefer the instant appeal of the Bourgogne Rouge. The Savigny Les Lavières 1978 costs £6.60 or 80 francs, also from Caves de la Madeleine.

Though Rully, in the Côte Chalonnaise in the South of the Burgundy region, is known for its white wines, some of which are used to make sparkling wines, red wine is also made. The 1978 Pinot Noir of Daniel Chanzy of Bouzeron is delicious, with the zip and crispness sometimes found in red wines made on vineyards that favour viticulture.

The maker likes to bottle his wine early, so this one verges on liveliness and its fruitiness makes it delectably mouth-filling. Not surprisingly, it won a gold medal at the 1978 Macon wine fair. This Rully costs £6 from Bow Wine Vaults, 10 Bow Churchyard, EC4.

Graham Chidgey, who heads Laytons (who have their own establishment at Santenay) stresses the importance of "drinking the wine, not the label".

He suggests two wines that would also make an attractive pair at a dinner: first, the 1978 Meursault Rouge, Clos de Mazeray, domaine Jacques Frier, the latter name much respected for quality. A red Meursault is a definitely unusual wine and this one introduces itself as a rather light, fresh drink, subsequently building to considerable importance with a significantly firm after-taste. It would be a good wine with spring lamb (but without mint sauce) and it costs £7.25 from Laytons, 28 Midland Rd, NW1.

Then a Beaune, Les Theurons 1976 of Roland Thévenin, would be a suitable accompaniment to roast beef or one of the many Burgundy recipes that incorporate wine.

Though, like many Beaune wines, this example has an attractive sturdiness, it is well-timed and has a firm, clearly defined character, leading to an agreeable and subtle finish another wine drinker would be ideal as an introduction to fine Burgundy.

At sea/Peter Black From A and back again

Southampton docks must have enacted the scene a thousand times during the final century of Empire. On the quayside the redcoated soldiers of the Queen, thunder and lightning from drums and cymbals; shrill clamour from pipes and trumpets; clash of metal-tipped boots on the stones; the bouncy optimism of *A Life on the Ocean Wave* and *Hearts of Oak*. Between ship and shore, tangles of coloured streamers; two deep on the rails, passengers waving and exchanging ribaldries with friends who were seeing them off.

Thus had generations left these docks to settle in Australia and New Zealand and screw the tribal customs of their chilly island into India and the Far East by sheer moral conviction. Only the tensions of parting were missing. We would be back in two weeks; for this was one of the Canberra's summer cruises.

Long main line voyages from A to B are hard to find these days (the ABC Shipping Guide, which used to give me hours of pleasant browsing planning phantom sailings, is mostly a guide to car ferries). But these cruises from A and back to A survive and prosper.

After all, just to be at sea is a huge pleasure, and on this little outing every mile of daily run was towards warmth and sun, and along a heart-stirring track of British islands, Finisterre, Cape St. Vincent, Gibraltar, Messina and Naples Bay. As echoes, all one with Nineveh and Tyre, but a big ship is still the grandest moving thing man has made, and this cruise preserve the old opulence, efficiency and authority, as emphatic a change as can be imagined from the world of convenience food, do-it-yourself, and apologies for delays due to industrial action.

For the passengers tradition enjoined dressing for dinner, at least to the extent of wearing a jacket and tie and taking the curlers out. Every day 4,840 eggs, 6,500 rolls, two and three quarters tons of meat and vegetables, six hundredweight of fish, untold amounts of fruit and icecream, disappeared in 7,500 meals. The service was served in two sittings covering around two hours.

When I toured the galley it was as quiet as a church, giving off a kind of incense compounded from all the odours of all the food. When the Goanese waiter disappeared with our orders behind the galley doors he must have become a demon of action in an inferno, whirling about to pick up soup and fruit juice here, an appetiser there, shouting his needs for the next course. But back at the table his

Jeeves-like composure never altered, and his face lost its habitual gentle, absent smile once only, when one of my table companions got him talking about other Indians in the crew. He, as a Roman Catholic, spoke with dismissing scorn of the Hindus and Muslims.

Here, did he but know it, he was going against the class-less system which the Canberra uses. Money will buy you a larger cabin on a higher shelf, but no more privileges or territorial rights than if you paid half the price for one of four bunks in an inside cabin seven decks down. Such segregation as existed came from the human race's queer practice of sorting itself out. Within a few days, with word of suggestion or direction of available diversions, the gregarious, the reclusives, the bingers, bridge-players, community singers, the pop music set and the fastidious, had found each other and taken over the places where they felt most comfortable.

Cruise passengers travel mainly in pairs. Widows and seasoned married couples appeared to outnumber the rest. To judge from conversation exchanged in the lifts (the places where anyone could run into anyone) more of us came from north of Watford than south.

One morning after the ship had turned east into the Mediterranean, and the officers had changed into white, I got up early and walked aft. A few passengers were at work on the coffee and rolls that some preferred to the vast intake on offer

inside. There were the sounds of sea rushing by, of crockery rattling, of quiet voices; it could not have been possible to look better pleased with the morning than these faces looked. Later on this area was filled with people and hubbub. Peace and quiet had moved forward and up some steps to the observation deck, where there was no pool and no bar service. There is always somewhere quiet on a ship. You may not only get away from what you don't enjoy, you can be unaware that it is going on. The only exception to this bit of luck was heavily amplified pop, which had the power to force itself through two flights of stairs and ceilings. But it was firmly dowsed at midnight.

I was disconcerted to find this scourge present at all among so many citizens of undoubted ripeness, but they accepted it as a fact of modern shipboard entertainment. The target audience, the entertainments officer confided to me, was about the same as that in a four-star "leisure complex" (euphemism for holiday camp). Well, nobody considers entertainment on offer when booking a cruise; and if it had been twice as good as it was it would still have come off second against what was available outside the Mediterranean on a benign June night.

P&O Cruises offers a of similar offers this summer. Cruise 211, a 16-night August holiday, calls at Barcelona, Cannes, Ajaccio, Elba and Naples. Prices start at £587 for a berth in a four person inside cabin to £1,738 for the best on the ship.

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حديقة من الامم

Shoparound with Beryl Downing



The man who maps out the past

History — that is anything that happened the Saturday before last — has never been my strong point. At school I was driven down the centuries by a computer programme mer man who had a micro chip where other people had their imagination. The result is that I recognise dates but can't attach them to anything — like struggling through a party before discovering it isn't the one you were invited to.



Harry Margary: hunting rarities

His greatest asset is his association, formed two years ago, with Guildhall Library. Its present keeper of prints and maps, Ralph Hyde, is particularly keen that as many people as possible should have the opportunity to study and enjoy old maps and together they have produced facsimiles of many of the library's valuable and rare maps.

"Tracking down old maps is not a problem," says Harry Margary. "The difficulty is in persuading librarians and county archive officers that you are a suitable person to take away their rarities to photograph them; so the Guildhall's trust was of enormous value."

He has a personal as well as professional interest in London's development, as his family have been freemen of the city and members of the Worshipful Company of Salters for more than 200 years, and the social importance of the maps he has chosen is emphasized by the unusually large scale, showing very detailed illustrations. His maps start in Tudor times

when London was no bigger than one square mile and had a population of 100,000. They show how a series of villages were absorbed into large built-up areas — mostly without much change in the layout of the streets — until in Victorian times there were four million Londoners living in an area of 500 square miles.

The earliest maps are pictorial and include illustrations of costume and customs, best-baiting and executions, as well as showing the development of thoroughfares — London Bridge, for instance, is shown in a Collection of Early Maps of London, 1553 to 1667 topped with dwellings and nurets — which is maybe what the Americans thought they were getting when they shipped it to Arizona.

Harry Margary's interest in maps began when he was house-hunting in 1962. All he wanted was a half-way house between his work centres, Teddington and Weymouth — he was an engineer physicist at the Admiralty Research Laboratory at the time — but Lympne Castle he says was his "undoing". After seeing it, no ordinary house would do.

The main part of the 25-roomed castle which has been one of the official houses of the Archdeacon of Canterbury since Saxon times, is fourteenth century. There is one twelfth century tower still standing and in 1906 a new wing was added — now the only occupied part of the castle, which is open to the public.

The first Margary large scale map of Kent was reproduced to provide extra interest for the visitors and proved so successful that it led to other county maps and, eventually, to the Guildhall series.

Both county and London maps are available as a set of loose sheets (between 19 and 27 sheets in a set) or bound flat between card covers, or bound, folded and guarded between hard covers.

The London maps vary in price from £10 a set for Ogilby and Morgan's City of London 1676 to £35 for Morgan's Cities of London and Westminster and the Borough of Southwark 1681/2 (hardback). There are also two books — The A to Z of Elizabethan London, £10, and just published, the A to Z of Georgian London, £12.

A series of reproductions of old playing cards is also available and if you send a set to Harry Margary, Lympne Castle, Kent you will receive an illustrated brochure giving full details and prices.

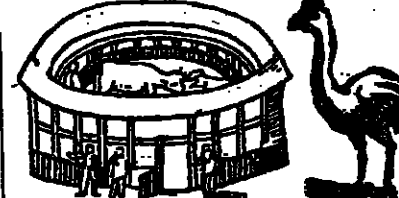
Panoramic view of St Paul's from Morgan's Cities of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark: 1681. In 16 sections, scale 17 1/2 in to one mile.



Elizabethan costume shown on Braun and Hogenberg's 1572 map 6 1/2 in to 1 mile, in a Collection of Early Maps.



London Bridge from a woodcut map attributed to Ralph Agas, c. 1562. In a Collection of Early Maps. Scale 28 in to one mile.



Cruelly and curiosities: a bull-baiting arena from A Collection of Early Maps and an ostrich shown in St James's park in London. Actually surveyed by William Morgan. The bird was one of 13 presented to Charles II by the Moroccan ambassador just a few days before the map was completed.



An artillery ground near Moor Fields shown in 'Morgan's London' actually surveyed by William Morgan. The ground is still used by the Hon Artillery Company.

Getting a head start

Chocolate, cheese and chop suey are all well-known causes of migraine. But did you know that hot dogs, ice cream and polar-bear liver can also cause headaches — and not only to the polar bear? A new paperback called *Migraine and Headaches* identifies all sorts of possible causes in the hope of helping the one in three people who are regular sufferers.

The author, Dr Marcia Wilkinson is medical director of the City of London Migraine Clinic and also knows all about the subject from personal experience. Her book (Martin Dunitz, £2.50) sets out to explain the different types of headaches, suggests ways of identifying allergies and discusses treatments available with and without prescription.

Her book is one of a series of Positive Health Guides which also includes a paperback (published March 22) called *High Blood Pressure* by Dr Eoin O'Brien and Professor Kevin O'Malley, co-directors of the Blood Pressure Clinic in Dublin.

Their suggestion that people could buy equipment to keep a check on their own blood pressure seems slightly counter-productive to me — I should think a mis-reading could easily cause heart failure — but there are useful chapters on weight control, salt intake, exercise.

There is also a section on the dangers of smoking which includes the following advice to those who really can't give up completely:

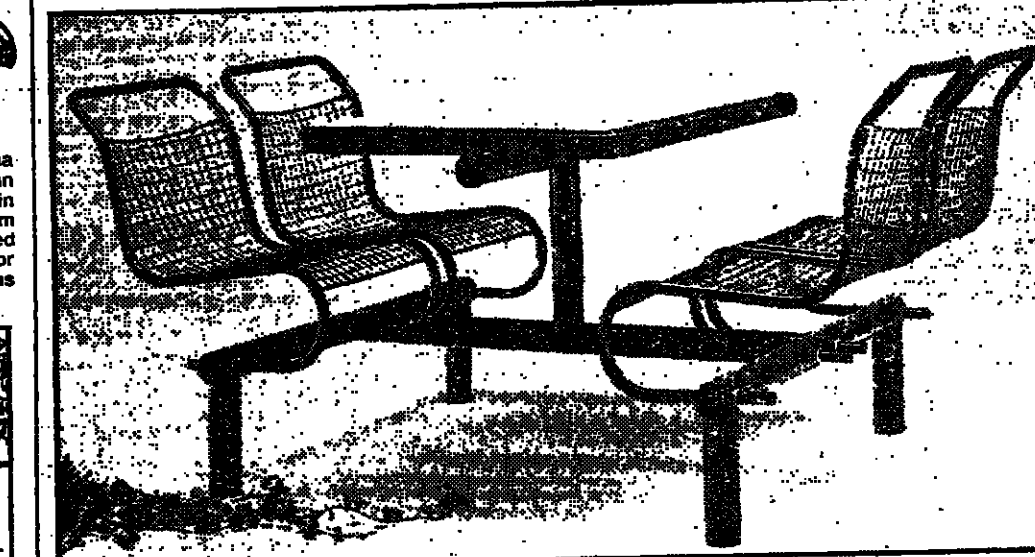
● Smoke less than five cigarettes daily. ● Smoke filter cigarettes of low tar and nicotine content. ● Try not to inhale. ● Do not smoke in front of your children (the majority of teenagers who start smoking become established adult smokers). ● Change from cigarettes to a pipe or cigars, keeping consumption low. It all sounds simple to a non-smoker, but the Budget may help the doubters.



Win your fashion stripes this spring in a white pure-wool sweater dress with bright blue, yellow or red stripes. By Pringle in sizes small, medium or large, £45.50 from the knitwear department at Harrods, who will also send by mail order (£21 p & p). Also available at Jenners of Edinburgh.

Knot correct

Money for old rope is one thing, too much money for new rope is quite another. In my Guide to getting things mended I quoted W. R. Outwaite & Son of Town Foot, Hawes, North Yorkshire, as charging £16 per foot for repairing church bell ropes. I'm sorry I should have said 16p per foot. Clang-g-g-



Are you dining comfortably?

Dining comfortably and elegantly is no often go, as it were, seat to seat. Most dining chairs appear to have been designed for use at a quick food counter rather than for lengthy lingering, over the After Eights.

A new range called The Designer Collection, though, comes up with a simple and flexible alternative to conventional dining — a free-standing unit combining table and

four chairs fixed to a framework of tubular steel. It is available in a variety of finishes — wood or laminate for the table tops, basketweave, leather, canvas or steel mesh for the seats. Black leather and steel or grey canvas on white could look effective in young, high tech surroundings, red wire mesh or natural basketweave would suit conservatories or could even be used outside.

Prices are from £348.45 for the wire mesh shown above to £581.90 for leather.

Designed by Fitch and Company, the collection is made by Hostess Furniture, who will send a brochure if you write to Mr M. Narro-way, at Vulcan Road, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7JR, telephone 0902 43681. It is also to be seen at the Design Centre, Glasgow from March 18 to May 1.

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Taking out an option

Fashions change in the defence to pre-emptive tricks. Twenty years ago, most rubber bridge players used 3 No Trumps as a request for partner to bid, retaining the double in its punitive sense. British duplicate players generally used the "lower minor". Here 3 Diamonds over 3 Clubs and 4 Clubs over 4 Diamonds are requests for partner to bid; a double is for penalties, and Three No Trumps is natural.

The Americans, who have remained faithful to the optional double, considered three No Trumps as cumbersome and the lower minor as over-centred. Other methods have had their passing vogue.

Today, the majority of the experts on both sides of the Atlantic rely on the optional double. In truth, the word "optional" is misleading, because the double is unequivocally intended as a "take-out double". Obviously, the doubler's partner may convert the bid into a penalty double if he has a powerful trump holding, or if he believes that the danger of bidding outweighs the risk of doubling the opponents into game.

The undeniable advantage of using a double for take-out is that it permits the bidding to subside at the three level. Playing duplicate pairs, it is fatal to allow your opponent to make a part-score of three Diamonds when your side can make nine tricks in either major. I suspect that this consideration partly explains why the Americans, who have always

played more duplicate pairs than rubber bridge, found any method which forced the bidding to the four level unappealing.

But for players with poor judgment, the double for take-out is as suitable a toy as a flick-knife for a child.

Rubber bridge. Game all. Dealer West.

♠	A 10 8 5 3	♥	A J 10 4	♦	A J 10 7 5	♣	A 5 4
♠	Q 9 7 6	♥	K 8 7 6	♦	K 8 7 6	♣	K 8 7 6
♠	Q 9 7 6	♥	K 8 7 6	♦	K 8 7 6	♣	K 8 7 6
♠	Q 9 7 6	♥	K 8 7 6	♦	K 8 7 6	♣	K 8 7 6

Declarer thanked his partner gruffly as he inspected the dummy with ill-concealed distaste. He won the first trick with the CK, and played the S9, permitting East to win with the S10. East switched to his singleton heart, recognising that a heart ruff would be unlikely to assist the defence. West shrewdly continued with the C10, which held the trick.

West made another good play when he switched to the DQ. Declarer covered with dummy's DK, losing to East's DA. East cashed the CA and two more diamond winners, before exiting with the fourth round of diamonds. Nothing could prevent East

from making two more trump tricks. Six down, 1,700 to East-West. "I had sixteen points," said North apologetically, correctly sensing his partner's displeasure. "I'm not redoubling," said South, "showed admirable restraint".

This disaster contains a number of lessons in bidding after a pre-empt by the opposition. First, it is considerably more dangerous to enter the bidding when one opponent is unlimited. Secondly, an essential criterion for a take-out double is suitable distribution, which should include a shortage in the opponent's suit. Any defect in distribution must be compensated by greater strength in high cards. Thirdly, nothing could be more puerile than turning up the number of points regardless of their location. And finally, if North's double was bad, his bid of 4 Spades was grotesque. A partner who makes a minimum response to a take-out double may reasonably be assumed to have six or seven points. But North, with five of the wretched 16 points in the opponent's suit, needs considerably more than seven points opposite his shapeless pudding to justify a further bid.

Pre-emptive bids create a minefield of uncertainty for both sides. Only one thing is sure. This particular North will make the same mistake again, but to make up for it, he will always inform you proudly of the number of points he had.

The more I grow tuberous begonias the more I appreciate them, not only for the generous show of colour they give for months in summer but because they are so easy to grow and are such a good long term investment.

Tubers bought soon and set up to sprout will be ideal for growing in beds in the garden, in tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets or in pots indoors. The tubers may be dried off in autumn and stored in trays of peat in any frost free room or greenhouse, started into growth again next year and divided into several plants so long as each has a young shoot. Truly easy to manage, these plants give wonderful value for money.

Last year for the first time we grew some of the large flowered hybrids from Belgium. They were about 15ins high with huge double flowers five inches across in red, yellow, orange or pink. This year by dividing the tubers we will at least triple the number of plants available.

We have started off a batch of pendula begonias for hanging baskets, which are fine too for tubs or other containers. The outsize double or "grandiflora" begonias are available under various names — "Prima Donna" varieties or "Giant Trumpet", the former from Doubles, the latter from Unwins.

With economy in mind remember the seed of house plants, especially foliage plants, which have appeared in ever increasing numbers in seed catalogues in the past year or two. These house

plants when several years old are expensive in the shops and one has to have patience to grow them from seed.

But it is fun watching them grow and some make sizable plants quite quickly. The banana *Musa arundinacea*, *M. ensata* and others grow fast to 4ft in their first year. They will of course grow too large for a living room and have to be relegated to a conservatory or greenhouse.

Growing more slowly we have *Eucalyptus globulus*, the Australian blue gum. *Grevillea robusta*, *Schefflera actinophylla* and *S. arboricola* grow to about 3ft and are happy in sunless rooms. The scheffleras have elegant leaves divided into up to nine or 10 segments.

The cacti and other succulents are splendid house plants, understanding, and imperturbable if one neglects to water them for a few days, or even weeks.

A packet of mixed cactus seeds should produce half a dozen species, some which will give really lovely flowers and others like the aloes which are attractive for their variegated spiny leaves.

Ferns too are easily raised from spores and if cared for intelligently can make happy house plants for years. The date palm, *Phoenix robelinii* not only supports, but revels in the fairly high temperatures of centrally heated homes.

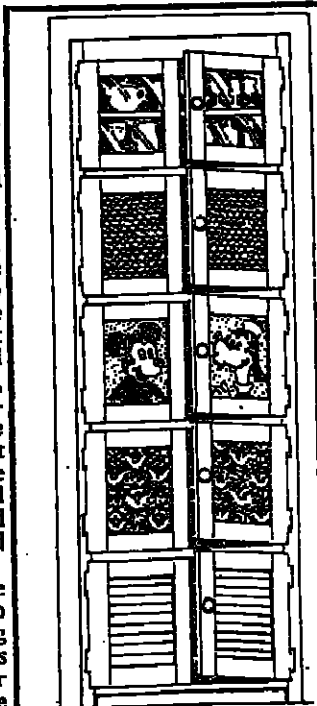
Coffee too one can grow from seed and a very attractive plant it is, with small white flowers and, if you are lucky, coffee berries.

She made the point that the new bulbs in the sunken pots flowered a good two weeks earlier than those which had been in the garden for several years. She suggested that possibly the older bulbs had pulled themselves deeper down into the ground and therefore took longer to surface. This may be so — we do know that some tulip species, known as "dripers" do this. If any reader has any other possible explanation I would be glad to know.

More curious behaviour of bulbs, this time in pots or bowls, is when one, or two in a bowl of say hyacinths, tulips or daffodils race ahead and open their flowers a week or more ahead of the others. This may be due to two or more batches of the variety from different growers being mixed together at the wholesaler, something beyond the control of the bulb retailer. One batch may have been left longer in the ground than the others' before lifting and ripening off which would account for the odd behaviour.

Hyacinth growers have been desperately trying to find ways of producing saleable bulbs in three years instead of four or five for obvious cost reasons. The result is that some bulbs produce flat stems which carry more "bells" or flowers than round stemmed spikes and they grow more slowly. These variations in growth are not due to any lack of care or inept watering, they are inherent in the bulbs.

One other point about forced bulbs. For reasons we can easily understand the more quickly you force the bulbs in heat the more likely it will be for them to be of uneven growth. The forcing will exaggerate any slight difference between the physiological make-up of one bulb and another.



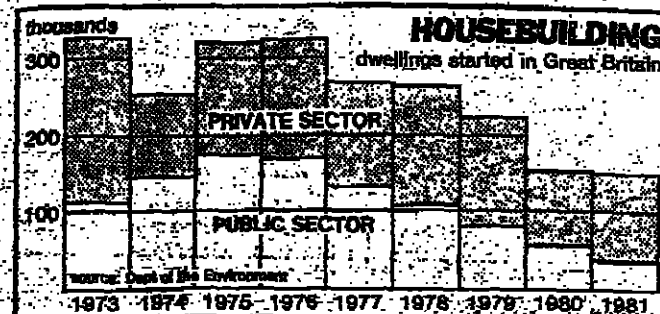
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BUSINESS NEWS

More houses started



In spite of bad weather and high mortgage rates 10 per cent more new dwellings were started in January than in the same month last year. Work started on 11,500 houses and flats compared with 10,400 last year, according to the Department of the Environment. But completions were sharply down at 13,400 compared with 16,400 a year ago. In the whole of 1981, a meagre 153,200 were started.

Sir Nicholas to stay

It looks virtually certain that Sir Nicholas Goddison will enter his seventh year as chairman of the Stock Exchange. Any suggestion that he might stand down or that other candidates wanted to challenge him would have been known earlier this week when Mr Patrick Mifflin-Salade was elected deputy chairman designate. Only a late challenge at the first meeting of the new Stock Exchange Council on June 25 could remove him.

US jobless at 8.8 pc

The United States unemployment rate rose to a seasonally adjusted 8.8 per cent in February after a one-month decline to 8.5 per cent in January, the Labour Department said in Washington. Total employment was almost unchanged at 99.59 million last month, compared to 99.58 million in January, but the number of jobless people rose because the number of Americans in the workforce climbed 236,000 to 109.17 million, the department added.

Warning on sugar price

The proposed 9 per cent increase in REC sugar prices this year will place a further burden on consumers and producers in the rest of the world, leaders of the main sugar-producing industries said yesterday.

The Food Manufacturers' Federation, the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, and the Cane and Sugar Alliance, all based in London, said the present record surplus of 6 million tonnes, or 60 per cent of domestic consumption, the European Commission was so concerned that it was withholding 2 million tonnes from the market.

The storage levy was costing consumers an extra 55 pence a tonne, and another 2 per cent levy to curb surplus production meant that the greater the surplus, the higher the price.

Carpet jobs go

Wilton Royal Carpets is to make 91 workers redundant at its Axminster plant in Wilton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. The jobs lost represent nearly a quarter of the workforce. The company blames the recession.

MARKET SUMMARY

'Bed and breakfast' rush

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 560.7 up 4.0
FT 100 68.36 up 0.47
FT All Share 323.03 up 1.30
Bargains 24,604

Equities remained steady, helped by the prospect of a 1½ per cent cut in mortgage rates next month and signs of a rally on Wall Street. However, turnover was lower with most dealers again coupled with the last minute rush by investors to complete 'bed and breakfast' deals ahead of the budget.

Fears exist in the City that the Chancellor may decide to scrap bed and breakfast deals, where investors sell shares in the evening and buy them back the next morning at a slightly higher price to establish a tax loss for the financial year.

A large seller of 1 million Royal Dutch, worth around £16.5m, at £16 9/32 was a case in point. The Inland Revenue is keeping a close watch.

The FT Index ended the day 4.0 higher at 560.7 with most market pundits expecting a fairly bullish budget statement and bears unable to close their positions.

A line of 100,000 BTR came on offer wiping 10p from the share price at 354p, ahead of Monday's full-year figures. These are expected to show a useful increase in profits from £70m to £90m but the market is worried by a possible rights issue accompanying the figures and the effect on future profits by South Africa during the current economic climate. Last year, sales in Africa amounted to £38m against a group total of over £500m.

Meanwhile, interest rates continued to dominate, with gilts making further headway and

COMMODITIES

Gas oil contracts for near-term delivery slumped yesterday, unnerved by continuing reports of an emergency Opec meeting which dealers believe will cut crude prices. For the fifth successive day, prices reached contract lows. March was down \$12 the biggest fall, to \$24.8 a tonne, and April fell by \$3 to \$23.8.

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates continued to ease and the Treasury Bill rate fell from 13.25 to 12.50 per cent. On a forecast shortage of £300m, the Bank bought £58m of bills outright and £170m for repurchase on March 30, all at unchanged rates.

Domestic Rates:

Base rates 13½
3-month Interbank 13½ - 13½
Euro-Currency Rates
3-month dollar 14½ - 14½
3-month DM 9½ - 9½
3-month Fr. F. 15½ - 15½

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,285.54, down 62.28.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,158.92, up 18.34.

CURRENCIES

The dollar weakened all round on lower interest rate expectations but the pound shrugged off speculation about base-rate cuts ahead of a predicted tough Budget.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING
\$1.8385, up 105 points
Index \$1.1, up 0.1
DM 4.3150
FF 11.0400
Yen 431.00
DOLLAR
Index 112.2, down 0.8
DM 2.3442, down 213 pts
GOLD
\$342.25, down £2

Abbey wants 1.5pc cut in homes rate

By Baron Phillips

Mortgage interest rates could fall by as much as 1½ percentage points when building society leaders meet next week, Mr Clive Thornton, chief general manager of the Abbey National, said yesterday.

This would reduce the rate from its present record 15 per cent to 13.5 per cent.

There is mounting pressure on building societies to cut their rates. Over the last few weeks banks have been steadily reducing their interest charges and the Nat-West, which has trimmed its home loan rates to 14.5 per cent, interest rates for National Savings investors have also fallen, easing the need on building societies to offer high returns to savers.

Mr Thornton said last night: "A cut of only 1 per cent in the mortgage rate is unlikely to be acceptable to my board". A cut of 1 per cent or less would be "extremely disappointing", he added, and pointed out that the Abbey National might go it alone if the other societies dragged their feet.

Some societies did not want to cut their rates, Mr Thornton added, and "if the mood was to do nothing, we would be in a mood to go it alone".

If the Building Society Association follows Mr Thornton's advice, a homeowner with a £25,000 mortgage, would see his gross repayments fall from the present £322.50 a month to £293.75.

It is thought that many societies share the feelings of the Abbey but inflows of funds and mortgage lending vary sharply. Some believe that a 1 per cent cut in rates is far more likely which, unless there is a sharp reduction in general rates,

Clive Thornton: alone

would give the societies an edge over high street banks. Mr Thornton said yesterday that it was unacceptable for building societies to be undercut by the banks. "We are not interested in leaving the initiative to the banks", he said.

Support for Mr Thornton came last night from the Woolwich Building Society. But the Woolwich was not keen on cutting the rate so much, feeling that bringing it down to 13½ per cent was more acceptable. A spokesman for the society said they were concerned that a substantial reduction in rates would hit investors and make it difficult to attract savings. Much would depend on what the Chancellor offered in the Budget by way of National Savings schemes.

Last night the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors announced it was abandoning its recommended scale of fees for mortgage valuation work. But it seems unlikely that house buyers will see any changes in the amount they are charged for the service.

Although surveyors have scrapped their fee scales, building societies have not and customers will still be charged at the same level.

City trends point to interest rate fall

By John Whitmore

City optimism that interest rates will fall further over the coming weeks was reflected in a sharp drop in the Treasury bill rate at yesterday's weekly tender.

Aggressive bidding for the £100m of three-month bills on offer led to bills being allotted at an average rate of discount of 12.4972 per cent, down from 13.2862 per cent the previous Friday.

Other money market rates also eased further yesterday, generally by about ¼ per cent. This means that most period rates have eased by about ½ per cent over the week. The three-month inter-bank rate, for example, has come down from 14 to 13½ per cent.

Although the Bank of England has kept its own dealing rates steady, as a sign that it does not want to see interest rates fall too fast, the general feeling is that the banks will reduce their base

rates in the middle of next week provided there are no reflexionary shocks in Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget.

If the Government's proposed fiscal policy is considered adequately cautious, many lenders will be looking for a fall in base rates to about 12 per cent by late spring.

Yesterday the dollar slipped a further 2.13 pence to close at DM 2.3442, a loss on the week of just over 4 pence.

The dollar also lost ground to sterling. The pound gained 1.05 cents to \$1.8385, a rise of 1.7 cents on the week. Sterling's index against a basket of currencies rose 0.1 yesterday to finish the week unchanged at 91.1.

Local radio stations due to the air at the end of the year. Radio 210, the Thames Valley station, saw profits halved from £113,000 to £47,000 and the other stations who have so far declared figures all show fall in profits.

Worse is expected over the next few weeks, however, as the remaining stations hold their annual general meetings. Of the 26 stations declaring figures for last year, nine are expected to announce losses and three will be on or around the break-even mark. LBC's 1980 profit of £1.4 million is expected to be virtually wiped out and even Capital Radio, by far the most profitable of the independent local radio stations, is likely to show a drop from last year's profit of £2.7 million.

Admittedly, the previous year was particularly good one for the radio stations, who made good profits largely because of the ITV strike which gave radio a huge revenue boost.

In addition, in the five months since the last financial year ended, radio revenue has recovered, leaping by over 25 per cent, thanks partly to a general advertising recovery and partly to a reorganisation of the indus-

Griffin tipped for NCB

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Consultants engaged to find a successor to Sir Derek Griffin as chairman of the National Coal Board are expected to submit their short list of candidates to Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy before the end of this month.

Mr Kenneth Griffin, deputy chairman of British Shipbuilders, has emerged as a prime contender for arguably the toughest job in the nationalised sector.

Various possible candidates for the chairmanship — which Sir Derek vacates early in July — have included mining industry leader, Mr Joe Gormley, and Mr Eric Varley and Mr Roy Mason former Labour Cabinet Ministers.

MSL, the consultancy company engaged by the Government to find the new chairman, have extended their search widely and their original brief did not rule out overseas candidates.

Mr Griffin's credentials for the chairmanship clearly have some attraction to the Government and to energy



Kenneth Griffin: Short listed.

ministers. He has first-hand experience of national wage bargaining and played a formative role in the negotiation of the shipbuilding industry's first national agreement after nationalisation in 1977. He is also a familiar figure in the NCB, being appointed one of the board's part-time directors in 1976 and completed his third term at the end of last month.

His NCB contract was not renewed for a fourth term and his present £34,000 a year appointment with BS ends in a year's time. The son of a Great Western railway worker, Mr Griffin was Cardiff area secretary of the Electrical Trades Union and a disciple of the late Sir Les Cannock, the right wing general secretary.

As well as being a familiar figure in the NCB boardroom, Mr Griffin has enjoyed the patronage of both Conservative and Labour Governments, being recruited by Mr Wedgwood Benn just before the 1970 general election as head of a team of industrial advisers to the former Department of Trade and Industry. He subsequently served under the late Mr John Davies in a similar role with the Tory Government.

The Government is seriously considering splitting the NCB chairman's responsibilities with the new chairman likely to assume a figurehead role backed up by a chief executive, being given executive responsibility for running the business.

Imports take 58pc of car market

By Peter Hill

Imported cars claimed more than 58 per cent of total new car sales in the United Kingdom in the first two months of this year.

Foreign cars accounted for 57 per cent of the total February sales — up from 53.7 per cent a year ago. Over the same period the importers' share rose to 58.4 per cent compared with 53.3 per cent a year ago. The rise, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, was due almost entirely to improved sales by other EEC countries. The total market share held by Japanese companies last month was down to 9.1 per cent compared with 10.6 per cent a year earlier.

Ford maintained its position as market leaders with its Escort and Cortina models ranking first and second both last month and for the first two months of the year.

After a dismal performance last year when its market share fell to 18.9 per cent — against its target of 20 per cent — BL improved its sales last month. Its overall market share rose to 19.3 per cent with the Metro ranking as the third best selling car.

Registrations for the first two months were down to 237,743 against 258,853 a year earlier. The most spectacular improvement was recorded by General Motors. The company, which sells Opel and Vauxhall models, claimed 12 per cent of the market.

In the commercial vehicle sector, where the recession has been felt particularly acutely, leading BL to announce a far-reaching rationalisation programme, sales were down by almost 8 per cent last month on year earlier levels with foreign models increasing their share of the market to 35 per cent.

Defence Ministry to use private insurers

By Peter Wilson-Smith

In a radical departure from the tradition that the Government carries its own insurance, the Ministry of Defence yesterday announced its vehicle and employee liability insurance is being put out to the private sector.

This is another victory for Sir Derek Rayner, the man brought in by Mrs Thatcher to wage war on waste in Whitehall, and it is expected to yield savings of £11.4m for the Exchequer over the next 10 years.

In the past, the Ministry's MoD's Claims Commission handled the ministry's insurance as well as about half the claims work for other Government departments, but after a study carried out under the auspices of Sir

Derek Rayner, which gave rise to a more detailed examination, it was decided there would be advantages in transferring to commercial insurers the motor and employee liability insurance. They make up the bulk of the Claims Commission's workload in this country.

General Accident will underwrite the business and the Department's insurance brokers will be Minnet and Sedgwick. The amount the ministry will pay in insurance premiums is being kept a secret.

The business covers about 50,000 vehicles and nearly 250,000 employees. Last year the Claims Commission paid out about £500,000 on traffic accidents and £1.5m to £2m on employee liability.

Inquiry almost complete

By our financial Staff

The Stock Exchange disciplinary committee has now seen all but two of the partners of former Manchester stock brokers firm Halliday, Simpson which it suspended last summer for investigation.

The two remaining are senior partner Mr David Garner and Mr Russell Torr who resigned before the firm was suspended.

Though not acknowledging that it was taking disciplinary measures against the partners, the Exchange says that once the inquiries are finished the results might be

handed over to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr Garner and Mr Torr are thought likely to appear before the disciplinary committee within three weeks.

Meanwhile, several partners are understood to have not received any money from the firm which voluntarily wound itself up four days after the Exchange suspension.

At the time of the winding up, Halliday said it was solvent and had sufficient funds to meet all its liabilities.

Setback for synthetic fuel

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Falling oil prices and a slump in demand mean that large-scale manufacture of synthetic fuels is now unlikely before the next century, according to Mr John McKinley, chairman and chief executive of Texaco.

Texaco economists believe that demand will fall further this year. Unless members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries make any decisive action, they add, prices could fall as low

as \$15 a barrel. The average price now is \$33 a barrel.

Mr McKinley said in Washington that it was widely assumed until last year that the decline of conventional supplies of oil and gas made the development of alternative fuels a matter of urgency. But that was no longer the case.

The oil company's economists say there is a good chance that oil prices will continue falling over the next

Panel urged to unmask mystery ACC buyer

By Philip Robinson

The Takeover Panel has been asked to identify a mystery buyer who is believed to have spent about £1m buying just under 2 per cent of the non-voting shares in Associated Communications Corporation over the past few days.

ACC is the subject of three takeover offers, two from Australian financier Mr Robert Holmes a Court with a top value of £46m and one from Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation worth £50m.

The panel request was made by Barclays Merchant Bank, advising Heron, after initial inquiries over the identity of the buyer drew a blank. The buyer is believed to come from Australia or the Far East and must have been doing so by stockbrokers T. C. Coombs, who have offices in Melbourne and Hongkong.

Mr Edgar Astaire, senior partner of stockbrokers Astaire and Co, who are acting for Heron, said last night: "There has been a big move in the share price today. We have tried to find out who the buyer is but have not met with success. We asked the panel to make inquiries and their initial results are not satisfactory to them or us, so we asked them to investigate."

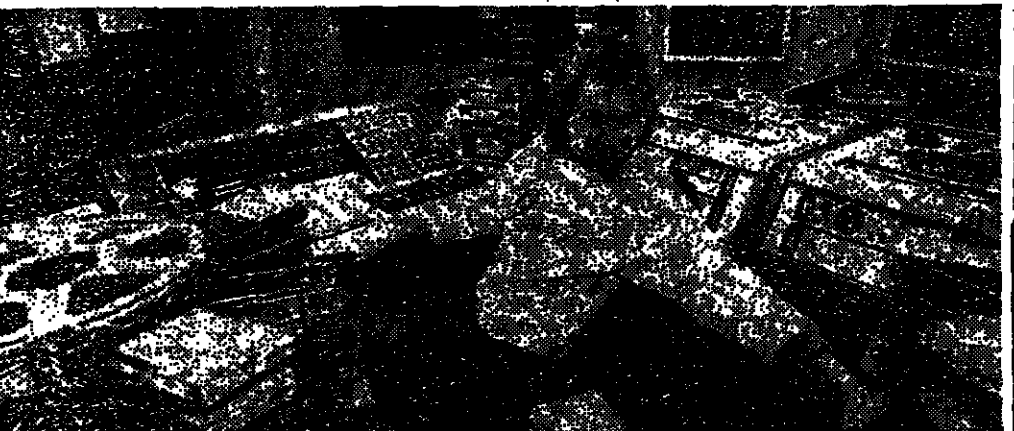
In the past week ACC's share price — which Heron's takeover offer puts at 90p — has risen 13p. The largest daily rise came yesterday when it gained 5p to a new 12-month peak of 97p before easing back to close at 93p.

The shares acquired by the unknown buyer represent 1.8 per cent of the non-voting shares. Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, said earlier this week that he had bought some shares, but he is not thought to be behind the buying spree.

Mr Michael Peterson of Barclays Merchant Bank said last night: "I'm amazed that a London stock-broking firm, says it has not got the telephone number of its Australian office, which is the buying order."

Meanwhile, Heron plans to issue its formal offer document for Lord Grade's old company next Wednesday. ACC said last night that there was still no word from Mr Holmes a Court's Bell Group on whether it was still prepared to bid for Heron's offer or withdraw.

It is now understood that Heron is not happy with the price at which ACC is proposing to dispose of the Classic cinema chain. If Mr Ronson's approval to sell that asset is not forthcoming, ACC will either have to call a special shareholders' meeting, or ask for approval from a full meeting of the Takeover Panel.



On the air...and in the red

Local radio tuning in to loss

By Tonia Douglas

Last year was the worst for commercial radio since the market moved into profit in the mid-1970s. Up to a third of the independent radio stations are expected to declare losses when their results are published over the next three weeks.

The figures are being published just as the latest wave of eight new stations as come on air and there are doubts among station managers as to whether some of the smaller stations will ever be profitable. "The reality of some stations must be in doubt", Mr James Gordon, managing director of Glasgow's Radio Clyde says.

Clyde has seen its pre-tax profit cut from £580,000 to £20,000 in the year to September 30 1981. A third of that profit came from interest payments.

By far the largest loss is that of Cardiff's CBC, which was set up unconventionally as a community station. It has declared a loss for the year of £126,000, as a result of which the Independent Broadcasting Authority has deferred its rental payments.

The Ipswich station, Radio Orwell, declared a nine-month loss of £48,000 in the year to June 30, prior to a merger with the new Bury St.

Edmunds station due to the air at the end of the year. Radio 210, the Thames Valley station, saw profits halved from £113,000 to £47,000 and the other stations who have so far declared figures all show fall in profits.

Worse is expected over the next few weeks, however, as the remaining stations hold their annual general meetings. Of the 26 stations declaring figures for last year, nine are expected to announce losses and three will be on or around the break-even mark. LBC's 1980 profit of £1.4 million is expected to be virtually wiped out and even Capital Radio, by far the most profitable of the independent local radio stations, is likely to show a drop from last year's profit of £2.7 million.

Admittedly, the previous year was particularly good one for the radio stations, who made good profits largely because of the ITV strike which gave radio a huge revenue boost.

In addition, in the five months since the last financial year ended, radio revenue has recovered, leaping by over 25 per cent, thanks partly to a general advertising recovery and partly to a reorganisation of the indus-

The Cardinal Investment Trust PLC

Highlights of Annual Report for the year to 31st December, 1981

	1981	1980	
Net Revenue	£1.22m	£1.16m	+ 5%
Dividend	4.95p	4.50p	+ 10%
Total Assets	£33.5m	£31.6m	+ 6%
Assets per share	186.7p	183.5p	+ 2%

Dividends to deferred shareholders have doubled in the last five years.

Further funds have been invested in the U.S. during the year.

To mark the company's 75th Anniversary a one for two capitalisation issue is recommended.

The company's policy is to improve shareholders' income to the greatest possible extent without jeopardising capital growth.

Geographical distribution of assets:—
U.K. 53% North America 17%
Australia 12% Far East 8% Others 5%.



To the Secretary
The Cardinal Investment Trust PLC
1 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0BA
Please send me a copy of the Report & Accounts

Name

Address

A Member of the F&C Group

Chancellor may offer relief on stamp duty

About the only bright spot on an otherwise gloomy Budget horizon is the general feeling that the Chancellor will be obliged to bow to public pressure and reduce the now penal rates of stamp duty on house purchase.

The abolition of stamp duty would cost an estimated £285m at present house price levels—small beer compared with the £1,760m the Chancellor will have to fork out if he index-links personal tax allowances to take account of the past 12 months inflation of the colossal £490m it will cost to index personal tax allowances for the full two-year period since they were last adjusted.

Abolishing, or reducing, stamp duty on house purchase has the added attraction of being a cheap way of currying favour with the 5.5 million homebuyers, not to mention the millions of would-be house purchasers waiting to get a toe-hold on the home-owning ladder.

To increase the starting point by £5,000 to £25,000 will cost only £70 million in lost revenue and a £10,000 hike in the threshold puts up the cost to £120 million.

In November 1980, 35 per cent of all residential properties sold in England and Wales incurred stamp duty and in the GLC area the total was as high as 48 per cent of all transactions.

From a political viewpoint, reducing stamp duty has greater impact than, say, reducing basic rate tax. Stamp duty has to be found in cash and in a lump sum. Tax is generally paid in small weekly or monthly instalments and the benefits of a reduction are not therefore as noticeable.

Lorna Bourke

Easy loans to help with improvements

Don't move — improve, has been the message to homebuyers during 1981. Even though grants from the local authorities are now hard to come by, the banks, building societies, finance companies and credit card companies are falling over themselves in their anxiety to lend; and this means that the money can be borrowed on very favourable terms. Moreover, providing that it is borrowed for the purchase or improvement of your own principal home (or that of a dependant relative), and that your total borrowings for this purpose do not exceed £25,000, you will be able to set off the interest charged against your taxable income, reducing the cost still further.

The discretionary grants that local authorities used to make available for items such as roof repairs, damp proofing, and the conversion of large houses for multiple occupation, are now very difficult to come by; and even where some inner city authorities, such as Liverpool, have continued to make some money available, their funds will almost certainly dry up completely because of government spending cuts.

By way of compensation, however, commercial loans are very readily available. Despite the Bank of England's recent warning to the banks (echoed by the Treasury in a letter to the building societies) about the inquiry of enabling house-owners to take out part of the equity they have built up in their homes, anyone who goes looking for loans for home improvements is likely to receive a cordial reception.

It makes sense, in the first instance, to go to the bank or building society from whom you borrowed in the first place, partly because you will probably be able to borrow there at a cheaper rate than elsewhere, partly because they are unlikely to require another full survey of the property (although they may want it revalued, at a nominal charge), and partly because the amount borrowed will almost certainly be added to your original mortgage to be repaid over the remaining term of the loan.

If you want to repay the debt over a shorter term (up to five years), you should try a finance house of one of the credit card companies (Access or Barclaycard).

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Money funds
 Simco 7-day fund, 14.01 per cent;
 UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14% per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14% per cent; Simco dollar fund, 13.96 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233). Tyndall (0272-732241). UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank
 Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. Reducing to 13% per cent on April 1.

National Savings Index-linked certificates
 Maximum investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in February 1977, £187.81 including 4 per cent bonus.

National Savings certificates — 23rd issue
 Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
 Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. Two years, General Portfolio Life—10.5 per cent net—minimum investment £500. Three years, Lamont Life—11.5 per cent net. Four years, American Life, 13.00—14.5 per cent (dependent on age)—minimum investment £1,000. Five years, Pioneer Mutual—12.5 per cent net—minimum investment £500.

Building societies
 Ordinary share accounts—0.75 per cent. Term shares—1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 2 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes—1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Banks
 Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Midland, Lloyds, and NatWest 11 per cent, seven days notice required, withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month 13 per cent, 3 and 6 months, 12% per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Local authority yearling bonds
 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13% per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 4-5 years, City of London 14% per cent; 6-8 years, Knowsley 14% per cent; 9 years, Reading 14% per cent; 10 years, Slough 14%.

Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestol no 24808.

Finance for industry
 Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years. Interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13% per cent; 5-6 years, 13% per cent; 7 years, 13% per cent; 8-9 years, 14% per cent; 10 years, 14% per cent. Further information from FFI 97 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-828 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
 Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 13% per cent; 1 year, 13% per cent; 2 years, 13% per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
 Interest paid without deduction of tax.

	7-days	notice
US dollar (call)	11% per cent	11% per cent
Yen (2 days)	3% per cent	3% per cent
D. Mark	6% per cent	7% per cent
French Franc	9% per cent	10% per cent
Swiss Franc	1% per cent	1% per cent

*Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.



There are bargains to be found, if you look.

Mortgage cut may be 1.5%

Home loan rates could well come down to 13.5 per cent from their current level of 15 per cent if Abbey National, the second largest building society has its way.

Clive Thornton, chief general manager of Abbey National yesterday threatened to "go it alone" if other societies drag their feet.

The Building Societies Association Council meets on March 12, three days after the Budget, and a cut of at least one per cent was considered inevitable given recent bank base rate reductions and the Government's desire to bring down the cost of buying a house.

A cut of 1.5 per cent in the mortgage rate to 13.5 per cent would bring down the cost of a £10,000 home loan over 25 years from £129 a month to £117.50 a month.

Raising the money to buy a house has never been so easy with banks, building societies and insurance companies falling over themselves to lend money.

Abbey National has just announced 100 per cent home loans of up to £35,000 (the limit was previously £20,000) and Lloyds Bank recently launched a massive campaign to publicize its 100 per cent home loans of up to £30,000 for first-time buyers.

The bewildered borrower can be forgiven for being slightly bemused by this rash of offers of 100 per cent finance for house purchase. Less than a year ago Lloyds Bank was telling customers that it never encouraged

anyone to borrow 100 per cent of the purchase price of a property, and the building societies have always taken a similar line.

Nevertheless, Bristol and West is prepared to lend first-time buyers 100 per cent of the price of a house up to a limit of £25,000 while the small Hanley Economic Building Society is offering home loans at one per cent below the recommended building society rate of 15 per cent. Hanley's offer is for a limited period only and the rate is guaranteed to remain one per cent below the recommended rate until the end of February 1984.

There is no doubt that the consumer is currently benefiting from the fierce competition between the lending institutions and the rush to shower us with cash has taken much of the aggravation out of homebuying. The problem of affording the repayments remains.

The Ideal Home Exhibition gets under way in London next week, traditionally signalling the open season for house hunting, while "For Sale" notices have sprouted like forests and there are some bargains around. House prices have been virtually static for the past twelve months and although there is usually a seasonal upturn in the spring, no-one is predicting a massive rise. There is still too much property on the market and estimates for 1982 put any increases at around five per cent.

With so many lenders in the market, terms, particularly the amount to be borrowed, can be negotiated — and it still pays to shop around. At the moment NatWest is offering the cheapest loans by a whisker, but the other banks will not allow this situation to persist for long.

In terms of cost it will probably make little difference where you go for a loan. The market is so cut-throat at the moment that no lender of any size can afford to be significantly more expensive than its competitors and interest charges will tend to fall into line.

But there can be significant differences in terms of service, or the amount the lender is prepared to advance. Abbey National pioneered the concept of making the society's property valuation available to the borrower and most large societies have now followed suit.

Abbey operate a seven-day mortgage offer system and has done away with some of the legal formalities where a property that is already mortgaged to the society is being bought. Solicitors will no longer be required to carry out further investigation of title.

By comparison, there have been isolated reports of delay and general chaos when raising a bank home loan, and some of the documentation, originally designed for commercial borrowers, is less than easy to understand. For the self-employed, the most significant development has been the introduction of pension-linked home loans. They are particularly advantageous for higher rate

taxpayers provided you expect to remain a higher rate taxpayer until retirement age.

For those paying tax at 50 per cent or more, the aftertax cost can be less than with a low-cost endowment scheme.

Alliance Building Society is the latest to announce a pension linked loan scheme though the idea was pioneered by the go-ahead Leamington Spa Building Society which arranged a tie-up with Scottish Provident, for borrowers taking out Scottish Provident pension plans.

Since then several other lenders have jumped on the bandwagon and pension-linked loans are now relatively freely available. Both Birmingham and Guardian Building Society have schemes which can be linked to any acceptable pension policy, while Barclays Bank is prepared to lend against policies taken out with its subsidiary, Barclays Life Assurance. Trustee Savings Bank is in the market too.

Eligibility is not entirely restricted to the self-employed. Anyone who is not in a company pension scheme can obtain tax relief on premiums paid to a self-employed pension scheme, and can therefore benefit from a pension-linked loan.

The details of these schemes are slightly more complex than the more familiar endowment-linked loans and unless you are certain you understand everything, it will pay to take professional advice. L.B.

WHAT'S IN A MORTGAGE?

Bridging loans

Unlike most building societies, Abbey National can, for a short period, lend you the mortgage on your new home—even including the deposit—without requiring you to repay the old mortgage first.

Simple legal system

Our experience has enabled us to iron out the legal wrinkles of mortgaging. You'll find it all blessedly jargon-free and easy to follow.

Friendly local staff

Abbey National have over 620 branches, so there's always one near you. Our Home Service people know your area, can probably keep you right up to date with current prices—and common pitfalls. You deal with them on your mortgage—not with some 'head office' hundreds of miles away.

Home improvements

Of course, Abbey National mortgages aren't only for outright purchase. If you need money to help you improve your home in any way from adding heating to adding a room, our Home Service will listen sympathetically.

The Home Buyers Club

Everyone who starts saving for a home with Abbey National can be a member of our unique Home Buyers Club. The free initial kit clearly explains everything you need to know about choosing and buying. And you have constant access to informed advice—and useful discounts.

Insurance service

You may be considering an endowment mortgage. You'll certainly need house insurance. Our Home Service has all the gen and will happily—and impartially—share it with you.

Unique expertise

Abbey National's experience in housing is unrivalled. No British bank can touch it. And you can call on that experience whenever you need it.

The disabled

If special arrangements and alterations would help make life at home easier, you'll find our Home Service very understanding and willing to help.

Loans on any type of property

Old, new, detached or part of a structure, we'll be happy to consider it, so long as it passes survey.

Survey choices

Abbey National were the first major society to release the property report and valuation to mortgage applicants. Now we also offer the chance to choose a more extensive survey—at an advantageous rate.

Special low cost mortgages

To a first-time buyer borrowing not more than £15,000 we offer a special 4% reduction in the rate of interest for the first year—currently this means you pay 14% and that helps to ease the pressure of the first expensive year of home ownership.

Well, there's got to be money of course.

But there are other important facets to a home loan. Like the service that comes before it, with it and after it. Like the security that backs it. Like the kind of people you're dealing with.

The loan to buy your home will probably be the largest financial commitment you take on. It makes sense to get the mortgage with the most in it.

Our diagram shows you what we put into a mortgage. A visit to your local branch will tell you what we'll put into yours.

ABBNEY NATIONAL HOME SERVICE
 Puts a lot more than money into your mortgage

ABBNEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, 37 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 2AA

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davale

BBC 1

6.25 Open University: Parents at Nelson School, 6.30 Clean Air, 7.15 Riccio's Broomies, 7.40. Potatoes (2), 8.05 To Bedford from Busso (3), 8.30 Resources in Sound, 9.05 Swim: fitness, 9.30 Swap Shop: with Bob Geldof and Johnny Fingers, Mike Harding, The Kranks and Pigmarm Pigs, 12.15 Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.20 Football: Pool, 12.45 News, 12.50 Review: Royal Albert Hall (4), and Tennis Davis Cup, Great Britain v Italy, 1.40 Racing: from Haydock, the 1.16, 1.45 and 2.15 races, from Newbury, the 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 races, 2.40 Tennis (Davis Cup), 2.55 Rugby Union: live coverage of the clash between England and Wales at Twickenham, Can England, dogged with success after defeating France two years ago, pull off another win? Their victory rate against Wales isn't phenomenal — three wins in the last 20 years; 3.45 Half-time football scores.

BBC 2

6.25 Open University: The Claimant, 6.50 Bionicle: Theorem, 7.15 Conic Sections, 7.40 Baroque Invention, 8.05 Home Sweet Home, 8.30 Writing History, 8.55 Sounds of Language, 9.20 Seven Card Study, 9.45 ABC in Kansas City, 10.10 Petroleum, 10.35 Augustus's Rome, 11.00 Maths, 11.35 Mutations, 12.15 Maths, 12.40 Likely Story, 1.05 Easy as ABC, 1.30 Dependent, 1.55 Handicapped in the Community, 2.45 Electronic design and signals, 3.35 Film: Mr. Skeffington (1944). Claude Rains is the stockbroker husband whose wife (Betty Davis) gives him an awful time.

ITV/LONDON

6.25 Sesame Street: with The Muppets, 9.35 Space 1999: Galactic thriller, with Christopher Lee as guest actor (7), 10.30 Tawaras: Chaotic entertainment for children and quite a few parents; 12.15 World of Sport. The line-up is: 12.20 The Ball (Cup quarter-final preview), 12.45 World Cup Six-days: Men's Downhills, from Mount Whistler, Canada, and Aspen, United States, also: Rallying, (Minter International Rally). The first of five rounds in the Rothmans RAC Open Rally Championship. Last year's winner, Pentti Airikkala takes part, 1.15 News from ITN, 1.20 The ITV Six, we see from Market Rasen, the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.30 and (from Hereford), the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.30; At 3.00: Snooker. Live, semi-final coverage of the Yamaha Organs Trophy from the Assembly Rooms, Derby (see also 4.00); 3.45 Half-time football results. And general sports round-up.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast, 6.30 News, 6.32 Farming Today, 6.35 Today's Faithful, 7.00 News, 7.10 Today's Papers, 7.15 On Your Farm, 7.45 Years' Faithful, 7.50 It's a Bargain, 8.00 News, 8.10 Today's Papers, 8.15 Sport on 4, 8.48 Yesterday in Parliament, 8.50 News, 8.55 Breakfast, 9.00 News, 9.05 The Week in Westminster, 10.30 Daily Service, 10.45 Pick of the Week, 11.35 From Our Own Correspondent, 12.00 News, 12.02 Money Box, 12.27 Ten to Twelve, 1.00 News, 1.10 Any Questions?, 2.00 News, 2.05 Minute Theatre: 'A Nice Day Out' by Anne Westrook, 2.55 Medicine Now, 3.00 News, 3.05 The British Seafarer: A history in 26 parts (2), 4.15 Feedback with Tom Vernon, 4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine, 4.35 The News, 4.40 Off the Page, Novelist, Beryl Bainbridge talks to Gill Pyrah, 5.25 Pick of the Week, 6.00 News, 6.15 Desert Island Discs, Castaway: Dame Eva Turner, prison inmate, 6.55 Sport The Week with Robert Robinson, 7.35 Baker's Dozen, Richard Baker with records, 8.30 Saturday Night Theatre, 'Sarah Jane' — 1910 by Sandra Freeman, 9.00 News, 10.15 Mrs Worthington, the book by Wendy Murray, 11.00 Uplifters Our Dutiness, An evening meditation, 11.15 A Word in Edgeways.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather, 8.00 News, 8.05 Audside, Ireland, Alban, Puccini (mono), 8.15 News, 8.20 News, 8.25 News, 8.30 News, 8.35 News, 8.40 News, 8.45 News, 8.50 News, 8.55 News, 9.00 News, 9.05 News, 9.10 News, 9.15 News, 9.20 News, 9.25 News, 9.30 News, 9.35 News, 9.40 News, 9.45 News, 9.50 News, 9.55 News, 10.00 News, 10.05 News, 10.10 News, 10.15 News, 10.20 News, 10.25 News, 10.30 News, 10.35 News, 10.40 News, 10.45 News, 10.50 News, 10.55 News, 11.00 News, 11.05 News, 11.10 News, 11.15 News, 11.20 News, 11.25 News, 11.30 News, 11.35 News, 11.40 News, 11.45 News, 11.50 News, 11.55 News, 12.00 News, 12.05 News, 12.10 News, 12.15 News, 12.20 News, 12.25 News, 12.30 News, 12.35 News, 12.40 News, 12.45 News, 12.50 News, 12.55 News, 1.00 News, 1.05 News, 1.10 News, 1.15 News, 1.20 News, 1.25 News, 1.30 News, 1.35 News, 1.40 News, 1.45 News, 1.50 News, 1.55 News, 2.00 News, 2.05 News, 2.10 News, 2.15 News, 2.20 News, 2.25 News, 2.30 News, 2.35 News, 2.40 News, 2.45 News, 2.50 News, 2.55 News, 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Hattersley links state sale profits to Tories

By George Clark

Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, yesterday demanded an inquiry into links between the Conservative Party and City firms which had made "substantial profits" out of the sale of nationalized industries, and said the time had come to question the way ministers had behaved.

There was an immediate reaction from the Conservative Party. It said that Mr Hattersley, who had gone further than Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition leader, in the House of Commons, was mounting a smear campaign.

Mr Hattersley, in a speech prepared for delivery at a dinner of the Honddia Labour Party, said: "Many of the underwriters involved in the sale of public assets, and therefore making substantial profits for themselves out of the deal, have made large contributions to the Conservative Party."

"Just to look at accepting houses: Barings, who helped to dispose of Cable and Wireless, contributed £15,050 in

1980; Kiewit Benson (British Aerospace), £12,500; Lazard (British Gas Corporation), £11,000; and Morgan Grenfell (Cable and Wireless), £12,500. In total, the accepting houses contributed £32,000 to Tory funds in 1980."

Mr Hattersley said the offer document on the conditions for the sale of shares in American International was precise in saying that the managing banks, which meant the Government, would pay underwriting commission of 14 per cent.

Last night, a Conservative Party spokesman commented: "Mr Hattersley seems intent on raising some kind of witch-hunt over an affair which has already been well ventilated in Parliament."

Some accepting houses reacted with amusement to Mr Hattersley's remarks. Mr Ian Fraser, chairman of Lazard, said it was quite ludicrous to draw such a connexion. Merchant banks were usually appointed by senior officials of a ministry, in consultation with the Bank of England, he said.

Ayatollah disappears

Continued from page 1

casts from Iran, that an old recording of one of his speeches had been used. The speaker said that no matter how ill the ayatollah had been in the past, it had always been possible to take pictures of him. Two years ago, after he had had a heart attack, and underwent heart surgery, he appeared on television at the swearing in ceremony of President Bani-Sadr, which was conducted in the hospital, at his bedside.

London: Ayatollah Khomeini's speech to the Iranian leaders who visited him on February 22 was broadcast more than once on Tehran Radio, purportedly in response to "repeated requests by our dear listeners" (Edward Mortimer writes).

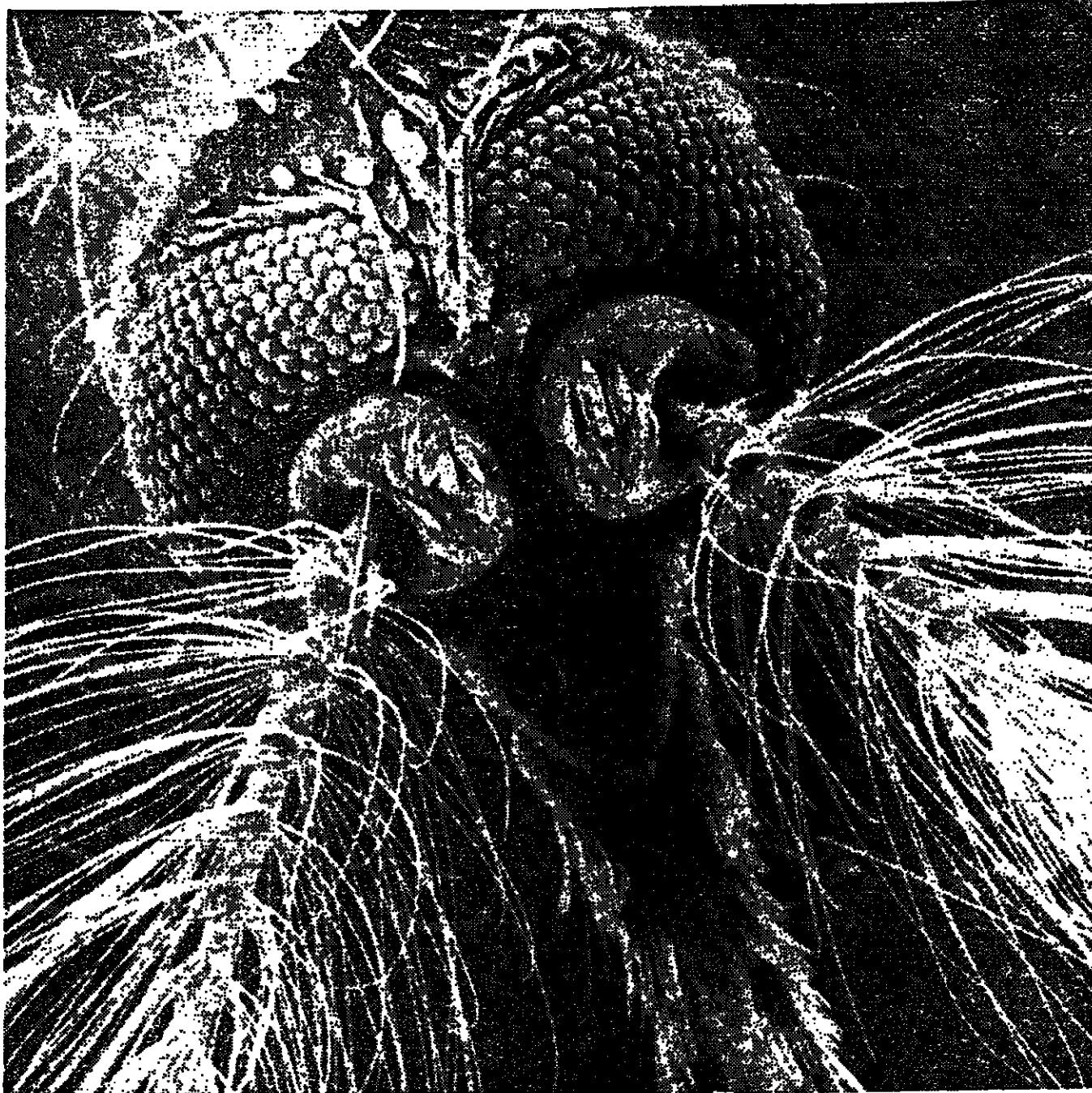
Anxiety over rumours of the

ayatollah's death or incapacity was presumably the main motive. In the speech, the ayatollah referred specifically to these rumours, saying: "I hear that a foreign radio had reported that Khomeini was dying... The man who was supposed to be dying was listening to me and laughing at them."

He also spoke of his hope to have an impressive number of prisoners released by the new year (which is celebrated in Iran on March 21). The new year was mentioned by Mr Musavi, the present Prime Minister, who was appointed only last October.

Iranians in London who heard the broadcast generally assumed that it was authentic, but some of them commented that the ayatollah sounded very weak.

Face to face with a fever bug



The extraordinary looking face in this photograph belongs to one of the insects most hazardous to mankind: the species of mosquito that is a carrier of yellow fever (Pearce Wright writes). The likeness to a human face is an accident, because the eyes of this creature (*Aedes aegypti*) are the two features that look like rows of small buttons. Each of the round objects is a single lens and helps form a compound eye of the type found in flies. The projections beneath, looking like the branches from a pine tree that has lost its needles, are antennae which search out the scent of a warm-blooded victim, while the compound eyes, designed to be most sensitive to infra-red radiation, help it home-in on its target at night. The photograph was taken by an electron microscope, method devised by Dr Tony Brain, of Chelsea College, to provide magnificent pictures for research workers, publishers in medical research, general biology and natural history.

Letter from Warsaw

Dramatic messages of hope at the Atheneum

It would be understandable if General Jaruzelski, the Polish Prime Minister, felt a degree of satisfaction about his reception in Moscow this week. Images of thousands of well-drilled Soviet school-children enthusiastically waving Polish flags have a way of crowding out the old animosities and the centuries-old tensions between Warsaw and Moscow.

But if that warm feeling is to remain, the Polish leader would be well advised to avoid going to the theatre.

At the Atheneum, they are playing to well-packed houses, one of the most obviously anti-Russian plays to be seen for years.

True, the action takes place in 1793 during the second partition of Poland, an era of pre-Soviet intrigue. But the Poles are adept at drawing contemporary messages from historical events—often the only way that critical comment can be expressed at a time of tight censorship—and this particular play, *Polonia* by Tadeusz Sitt, leaves enough clues in its wake, enough nudges and winks, to satisfy political appetites.

The play is at best bowdlerized history, but it has traditionally been the source of great emotion. When it was performed in Gdansk in August, 1981, members of the audience later thronged to the cross commemorating the killing of shipyard workers and laid candles and wreaths.

The action centres on Russian attempts to bribe and cajole the Siem, the Polish Parliament, into accepting the partition of Poland—a partition that involved the ceding of hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of territory to Russia.

The opening scene shows Empress Catherine the Great receiving a delegation of pro-Russian Poles who plead that she keep her invasion troops in the country.

This plea is justified in terms that have become familiar to students of the contemporary Polish press—

that there was a threat from a small group of extremists. The Russians decide that they will put pressure on the Polish king, who is portrayed as a chronically indecisive, weakened by the democratic trends in Polish society. The Russian Ambassador begins his campaign of bribing the Polish king by offering him a large sum of money. The king, however, refuses to accept the partition of the country.

The audience applauded the three main speeches that all reflect a certain mood. The first is by a deputy who refuses to be bribed. He says that whoever offers him money, Jacobins or Liberals, Russians or Prussians, the time will come when everybody gets what he deserves.

The second speech by the Russian Ambassador, who is corrupt and greedy, is more direct in its message. "I know that for many years, Russians will have to pay for what has been done today," he says. "The nationalist sentiment—that hardness comes and goes but the Polish nation will survive—comes out clearly in the final lines of the play: 'In the end, the blood will dry on the Polish soil and free generations will come to plough the land and toil'."

These are strong sentiments at a time when priests warn their congregations of being blinded by "half-truths" and when government communiques talk of the unbreakable friendship between Poland and the Soviet Union.

Theatre audiences are, of course, a poor judge of national sentiment. They are naturally more inclined to respond strongly to such drama.

Although the relationship is becoming warmer at the Government level, it is distinguished more by cool recalcitrance in other areas. The office of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society, once frequently visited because of its excellent restaurant, is now one of the emptiest buildings in Warsaw.

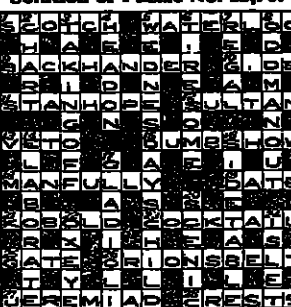
Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music
Concert by Midlands Early Music Forum: Wednesday Town Hall, Wednesday, 7.15.
Concert by Bournemouth Chamber Music Society: Wednesday, 7.15. Issur and accompanist Peter Evans; Talbot Heath School.

Solution of Puzzle No. 15,767



Solution of Puzzle No. 15,772



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,773

4 prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday. The winner of last Saturday's puzzle is Lt Col J. P. Shurcliff, 'E' Officers' Mess, Rheinwäldchen Garrison, BFP040, West Germany.

Name
Address



- ACROSS**
- Period History reached in 1066 and All That (4, 4).
 - One that prays for flies? (6).
 - Pop a question if part is not clear (6).
 - Terrible crash — show disappearance in this Egyptian style (8).
 - Irishman one put back in church's empty tomb (8).
 - Ordered for second round by boxing official, wrongly (6).
 - Slow move would not join the dance (5).
 - Street cleaner, to wit one of the Furries? (5).
 - Synopsis Number One returned — Food Processing (9).
 - Vehicle needing deflation? (5).
 - Born in London's West End for a foreign capital (6).
 - Mental twist shown by, say, a Levantine animal (8).
 - Shame about general service accommodation, it's filthy (6).
- DOWN**
- Very many meet up north for a change (7).
 - One quid, what it's given for cereal or sweet? (9).
 - Boring thing, a snare (6).
 - Go all reactionary when summer-time's over (3, 3, 5, 4).
 - Desecrate tomb of old German nobleman (8).
 - Motorists so impatient in south-west London? (7).
 - Learned to describe Arnold's wandering youth (9).
 - Burden the horrid old woman with horse equipment (6-3).
 - New ale, caring such a headache? (9).
 - Fish for the holy men, soberly clad (5-3).
 - Gautier's first is she, in Paris, in ballet? (7).
 - This stop in speech Times leader got all wrong (7).
 - Harness coach-horns, in tavern outside health resort (6).

Rothery Road, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Recital of choral and chamber music by students of Bournemouth School of Music, Cross Street, Bournemouth, 7.30.
Hereford Choral Society, conducted by Roy Massey, perform the service Requiem, Hereford Cathedral, 7.30.
Concert by Bristol University chamber orchestra and choir.

General

The Observer Flat & Housebuyers Show: a chance to meet estate agents from all over London, under one roof; free advice: 10 to 5.
Exhibitions:
The Engineers: the art of structures and how they are conceived, tested and built. Architectural Association, 34-36 Bedford Square, WC1: Mon-Fri 10 to 7 (until March 26).
The sculpture of Michael Rysbrack: City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol: Mon-Sat 10 to 5 (until May 1).
Drawings and sculpture by Henri Gaudier-Breszka 1891-1915. Bodley's Gallery, Station Road, Hereford: Mon-Sat 10 to 5 (until March 23).
The royal wedding dress and gifts exhibition, St Mary's Centre, Chester: Mon-Sat 9.30 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5 (until March 28).
Ecological conservation. An exhibition of the work of the Nature Conservancy Council. Cliffe Castle, Spring Gardens Lane, Kington: Tue-Sun 10 to 5 (until April 18).

Walks

The magical world of Charles Dickens: St Paul's Undergound, 2.30.
Tomorrow
Talks, lectures
Whistler and the Thames, by Laurence Bradbury, Tate Gallery, 3.
Christian witness in politics, by George Thomas, MP, 11.15: The dividing wall of hostility, by the Rev F. Michael Hooley, 8.20: both at Great St Mary's, The University church, Cambridge.
A closer look: the music room from Norfolk Manor, by Sarah Bowles, 3.30: silver of the last 200 years, by Myrtle Ellis, 3.30: both at V and A.

Music

King's Consort: a coffee concert at Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, 11.15.
LSO concert (Claudio Abbado) with Vladimir Ashkenazy, Barbican Centre, Barbican, 6.30.
Concert by Taverner Consort, Barnfield Theatre, Barnfield Road, Exeter, 8.
Concert by Brent Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Wembley, 7.30.
Exhibitions
Art of Japan: 17th-19th centuries. Adeane Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (ends today).
Marxism: Twenty years of war. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford: Tues to Sat 11.30 to 5.30 (until May 2).
Early Soviet photographers. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford: Tues to Sat 11.30 to 5.30 (until May 2).
Open exhibition by artists living and working in the City and East London. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1: Sun to Fri 11.30 to 5.30 (ends today).
National Glaziers' exhibition. Currier International House, Hammersmith, W6 (ends today).
General
Postcard collectors' fair. Horse-shoe Hotel, W1, 11 to 4.30.

Walks

Historic Clerkenwell, meet Farrington Undergound, 2.

THE TIMES NEWS SERVICE

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The Pound

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	51.75	25.75
Austria	51.75	25.75
Belgium	89.00	84.50
Canada	2.30	2.21
Denmark	15.12	14.52
Finland	8.63	8.18
France	11.48	10.88
Germany	4.51	4.26
Greece	115.00	109.00
Hongkong	11.10	10.50
Ireland	1.26	1.21
Italy	239.00	234.00
Japan	455.00	430.00
Netherlands	4.92	4.66
Norway	11.38	10.78
Portugal	13.00	12.40
South Africa	2.07	1.92
Spain	192.00	183.00
Sweden	11.00	10.42
Switzerland	3.53	3.36
USA	1.89	1.82
Yugoslavia	99.00	93.00

Sporting fixtures

Rugby Union: England v Wales, at Twickenham (3.0).
Scotland v France, at Murrayfield (3.0).
Football: FA Cup, quarter-finals (3.0): Chelsea v Tottenham, Leicester v Shrewsbury, Queens Park Rangers v Crystal Palace, Wolves v Ipswich, Coventry v League matches, page 20.
Racing: Meetings at Haydock Park (1.15), Hereford (1.15), Market Rasen (1.30) and Newbury (1.30).
Hockey: Women's international, Wales v England, at Bangor (3.30).
Athletics: English cross-country championship, at Leeds (3.20).
Badminton: England v Japan, at Farnborough (5.0).
Snooker: ISPA championship, at Abbeydale, Sheffield.
Snooker: Yamaha organs event, at Derby (2.30 and 7.30).
Fencing: Murrin international, at Barnet.

Tomorrow

Rugby League: Full programme, page 20.
Snooker: ISPA championship, at Sheffield (12.30 and 5.30).
Snooker: Yamaha organs final, at Derby.
Sport on TV
BBC1: 12.15, Grandstand including 12.30, Football Focus, 12.55, 1.10, 1.25, 1.40, 1.55, 2.10, 2.25, 2.40, 2.55, 3.10, 3.25, 3.40, 3.55, 4.10, 4.25, 4.40, 4.55, 5.10, 5.25, 5.40, 5.55, 6.10, 6.25, 6.40, 6.55, 7.10, 7.25, 7.40, 7.55, 8.10, 8.25, 8.40, 8.55, 9.10, 9.25, 9.40, 9.55, 10.10, 10.25, 10.40, 10.55, 11.10, 11.25, 11.40, 11.55, 12.10, 12.25, 12.40, 12.55, 1.10, 1.25, 1.40, 1.55, 2.10, 2.25, 2.40, 2.55, 3.10, 3.25, 3.40, 3.55, 4.10, 4.25, 4.40, 4.55, 5.10, 5.25, 5.40, 5.55, 6.10, 6.25, 6.40, 6.55, 7.10, 7.25, 7.40, 7.55, 8.10, 8.25, 8.40, 8.55, 9.10, 9.25, 9.40, 9.55, 10.10, 10.25, 10.40, 10.55, 11.10, 11.25, 11.40, 11.55, 12.10, 12.25, 12.40, 12.55, 1.10, 1.25, 1.40, 1.55, 2.10, 2.25, 2.40, 2.55, 3.10, 3.25, 3.40, 3.55, 4.10, 4.25, 4.40, 4.55, 5.10, 5.25, 5.40, 5.55, 6.10, 6.25, 6.40, 6.55, 7.10, 7.25, 7.40, 7.55, 8.10, 8.25, 8.40, 8.55, 9.10, 9.25, 9.40, 9.55, 10.10, 10.25, 10.40, 10.55, 11.10, 11.25, 11.40, 11.55, 12.10, 12.25, 12.40, 12.55, 1.10, 1.25, 1.40, 1.55, 2.10, 2.25, 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